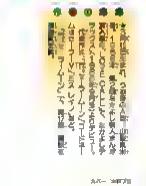

Kodansya Comics

プリズムタイム

上

武内直子

プリズムタイム

Kodansya Comics

プリズムタイム① KC

武内直子

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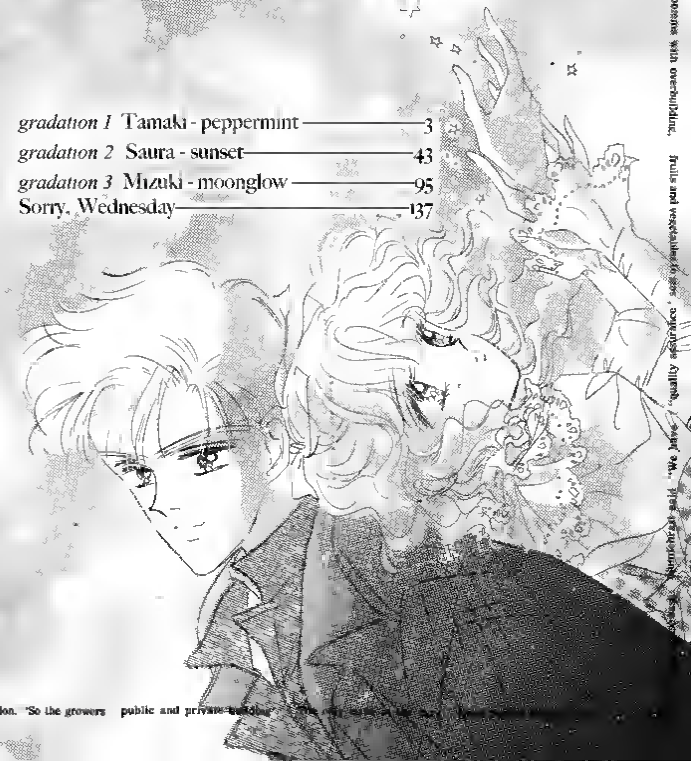
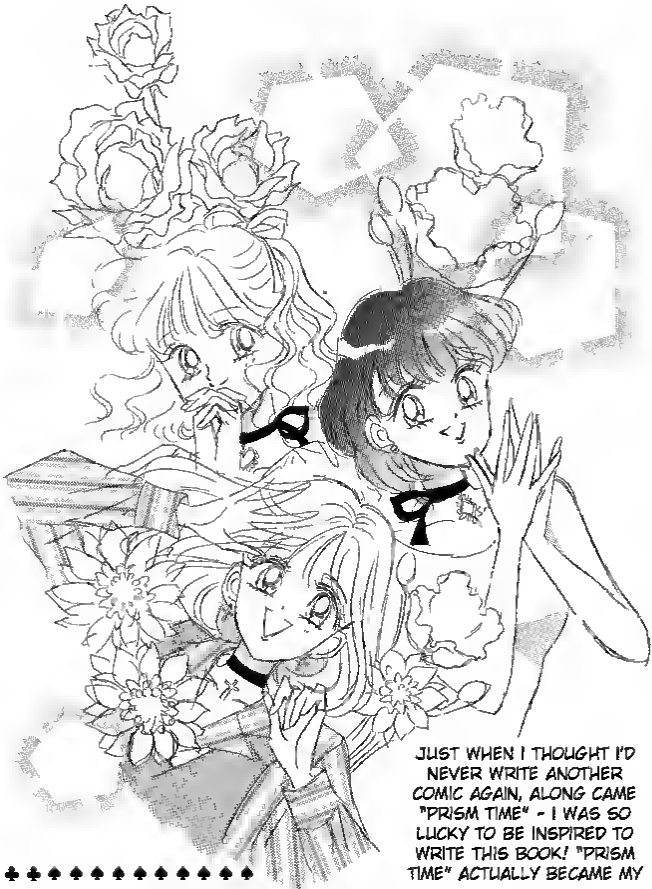
Kodansya Comics

Prism Time

1

gradation 1 Tamaki - peppermint ——— 3
gradation 2 Saura - sunset ——— 43
gradation 3 Mizuki - moonglow ——— 95
Sorry, Wednesday ——— 137





JUST WHEN I THOUGHT I'D NEVER WRITE ANOTHER COMIC AGAIN, ALONG CAME "PRISM TIME" - I WAS SO LUCKY TO BE INSPIRED TO WRITE THIS BOOK! "PRISM TIME" ACTUALLY BECAME MY MANGA DEBUT, AND LED ME TO MY CURRENT SUCCESS (IT MAKES ME SO SENTIMENTAL)!

I THINK "PRISM TIME" WAS ONE OF THE FASTEST COMICS I'VE EVER WRITTEN. I'VE COME SO FAR SINCE THIS ONE, THANKS TO ALL OF MY DEVOTED FANS. THANK YOU FOR BUYING THIS BOOK! I HOPE WHEN YOU READ THIS, YOU DON'T FEEL AS OLD AS I DO. AT LEAST I CAN LAUGH ABOUT IT! <3

THANK YOU FOR SENDING ME LETTERS ABOUT THIS COMPILATION, I'M SO GLAD TO REVISIT IT AGAIN!

Prism Time

gradation 1

Tamaki - peppermint

STUMBLE
ack!
WE ARE NOW ARRIVING AT SHINAGAWA STATION, PLATFORM THREE. WE APOLOGIZE FOR THE INCONVENIENCE.
ack
screech
BUT DUE TO A TRAIN ACCIDENT, THIS TRAIN WILL BE SHUTTING DOWN IN OSAKI.
YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING! I'M GOING TO BE LATE!
dash

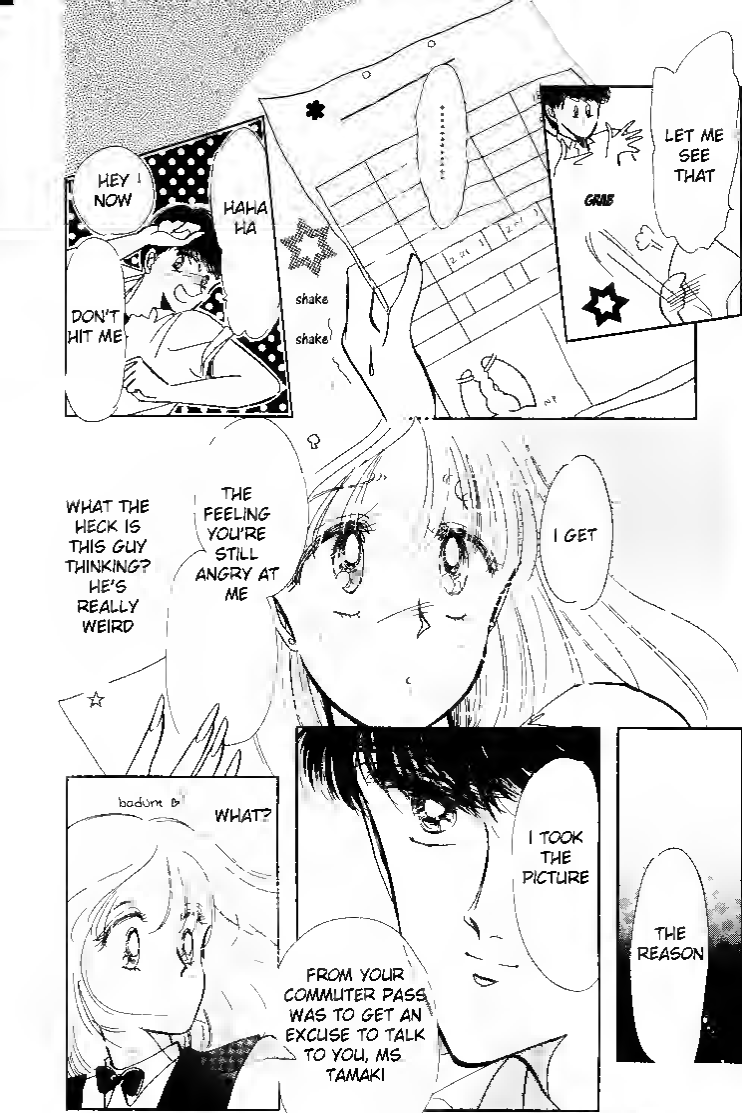
WHAT?! YOU LOST YOUR COMMUTER PASS?
I MEAN YEAH, I LOST THAT, BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY I LOST MY PICTURE OF MR. SHIROU THAT I HAD INSIDE OF IT! (WHAT AM I GONNA DO IF SOMEONE SEES IT?!)
YOU'RE SOME KIND OF SLACKER.
SHHH! (THE HEADMASTER JUST SHOWED UP!)
WE'VE GOTTA SNEAK IN
HUH?! IS THIS GUY A FRESHMAN? (H-HE SURPRISED ME!)
SEEMS PRETTY UPSET FOR SOMEONE WHO'S ONLY LATE FOR A SCHOOL ASSEMBLY.
got it
FWOOSH
IS THIS YOUR COMMUTER PASS, TAMAKI?
twitch
HUH? THAT GUY FOUND IT?! THANKS... WAIT, WHERE'S THE PICTURE?!
or do
HUH

MATSUNO TETSURO!
THE PICTURE'S... GONE?!
see ya tetsuro
YOU'RE TETSURO, RIGHT? I HEARD FROM ONE OF THE OTHER FRESHMEN.
I'M
pant
pant
HEY, WAIT UP!
MIURA TAMAKI
AN UPPER CLASSMAN, RIGHT?
YEAH, UMMM
THERE WAS A PHOTO INSIDE OF THE BOOKLET THOUGH, DO YOU KNOW WHERE IT IS?
THANKS FOR FINDING MY COMMUTER PASS THIS MORNING
flutish

IS THIS YOUR BOYFRIEND, MS. TAMAKI?
YOU MEAN THIS
H-HE'S NOT MY BOYFRIEND !!
GRAB
WHAT THE HELL
TAKING SOMEONE'S PICTURE
HOW RUDE ! I THOUGHT I'D COME HERE TO THANK YOU BUT NOW I'VE CHANGED MY MIND!
TAMAKI, WE TAKE THE SAME TRAIN TOGETHER
SO
RELAX
WOULD YOU
smile
COME HOME WITH ME SOME TIME?
blush

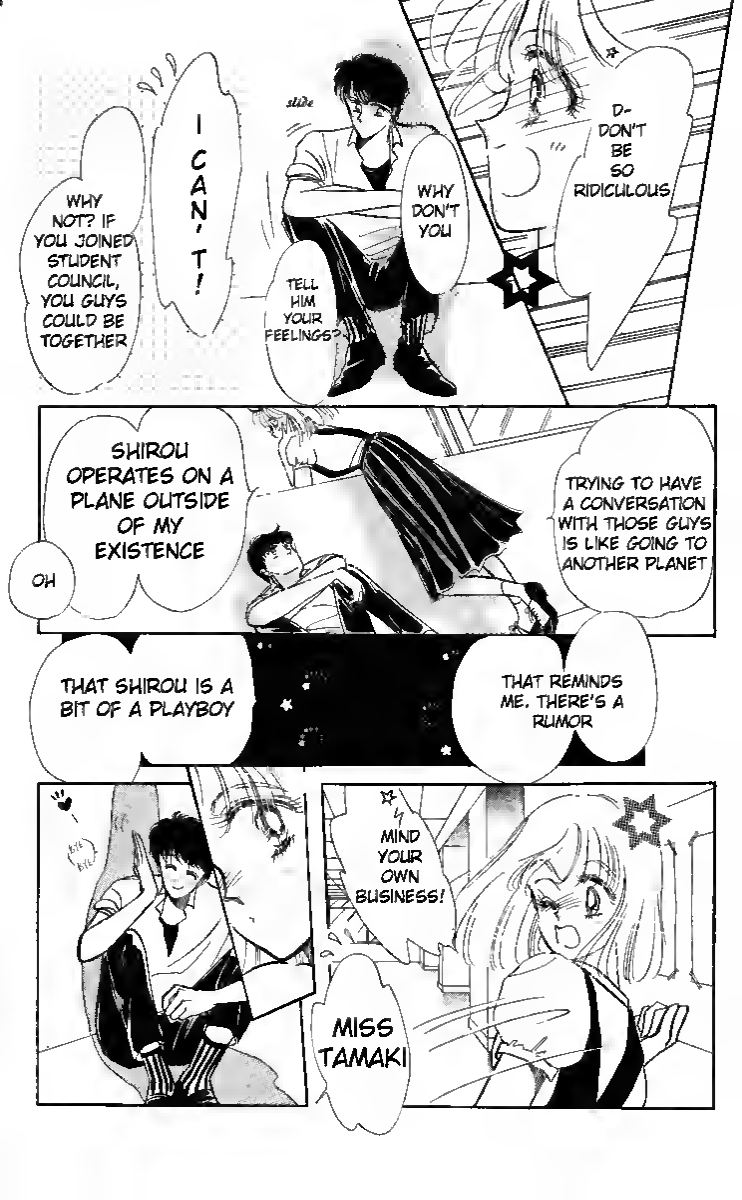
HUH? WHAT'S GOING ON?
D-
SHE'S GETTING SASSED BY A FRESHMAN
DON'T MAKE FUN OF AN UPPER CLASSMAN!
SHOVE
HUH?
UGH
WHAT
HEH
peace
WOW
A WEIRDO
SHORT
MS. SHIROU'S SKIRT SURE LOOKS
AH HA HA

blush
HIS VOICE IS, HIS VOICE IS...
NOT YOU AGAIN
ACK!
DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME, MISS TAMAKI?
IF I JUST ANSWER HIM THEN HE'LL LEAVE ME ALONE
SHIROU IS STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT, RIGHT? ARE YOU ON THE ADMINISTRATION TOO?
WHY DO YOU SAY THAT?
SHOULD I BE?
JUMP
NO. IT'S JUST THAT, AS MY WAY OF APOLOGIZING FOR WHAT HAPPENED THE OTHER DAY, I LOOKED UP SOME DATA
ON SHIROU... THAT'S ALL.
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT WANT TO CHECK IT OUT (GIRLS ARE SNOOPY LIKE THAT AFTER ALL)
DATA ?!
DA-


HEY ! NOW
HAHA HA
DON'T HIT ME
shake
shake
GRAB
LET ME SEE THAT
WHAT THE HECK IS THIS GUY THINKING? HE'S REALLY WEIRD
THE FEELING YOU'RE STILL ANGRY AT ME
I GET
badum b
WHAT?
I TOOK THE PICTURE
THE REASON
FROM YOUR COMMUTER PASS WAS TO GET AN EXCUSE TO TALK TO YOU, MS TAMAKI

ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
WHEN I BUMPED INTO YOU BACK THEN, MS. TAMAKI, YOU HAD SUCH A SHOCKED EXPRESSION ON YOUR FACE WHEN YOU LOOKED AT ME.
I WON'T
TELL ANYONE?
YOU WON'T
THE STUDENT COUNCIL MEMBERS ARE TOTALLY OUT OF MY LEAGUE
ONE TIME I BUMPED INTO MR. SHIROU JUST LIKE I BUMPED INTO YOU. BUT THEN I FELL INTO HIS ARMS.
THERE ARE SO MANY PEOPLE! WE CAN'T TAKE ATTENDANCE LIKE THIS! LET ME FIND A COUNCIL MEMBER!
SO THE ONLY TIME I COULD GET CLOSE TO HIM WAS DURING SCHOOL FESTIVALS

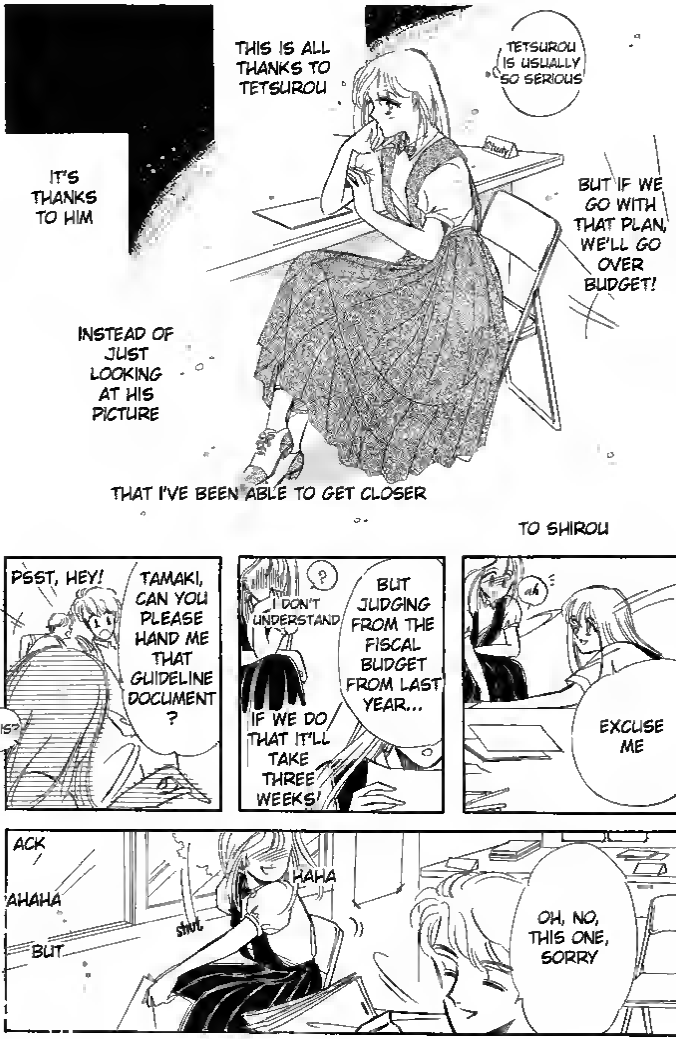
fwoosh
O-OH
BUMP
badum
S-SORRY
Festival Committee
TAKE OFF THAT ARM BAND?
THEN YOU CAN GO DANCE
WHY DON'T YOU
I DIDN'T THINK HE'D EVEN REMEMBER ME. I WAS JUST AN ORDINARY COMMITTEE MEMBER
I-I-I GUESS I W-WILL
I ONLY SAW SHIROU THAT ONE TIME
MAYBE IT'D BE MY PHOTO IN YOUR COMMUTER PASS
WELL
HMM
IF THE EVENTS HAD HAPPENED IN ANOTHER ORDER
IT FELT
LIKE BACK THEN
SO WHEN I FELL INTO YOUR ARMS

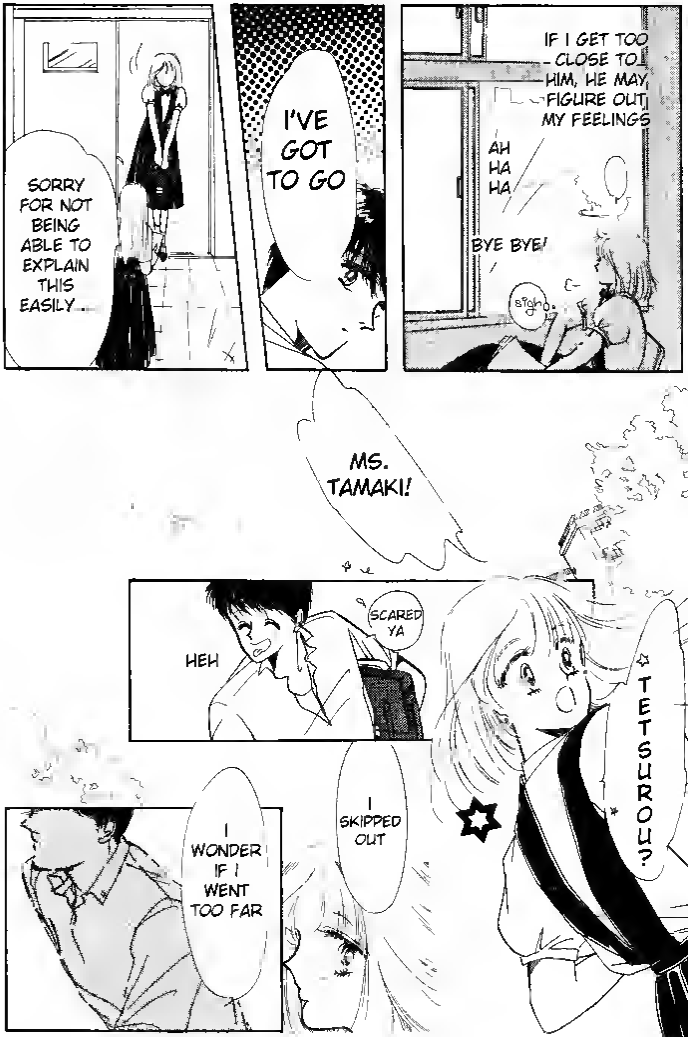

MISS TAMAKI
MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS!
THAT REMINDS ME, THERE'S A RUMOR
THAT SHIROU IS A BIT OF A PLAYBOY
OH
SHIROU OPERATES ON A PLANE OUTSIDE OF MY EXISTENCE
TRYING TO HAVE A CONVERSATION WITH THOSE GUYS IS LIKE GOING TO ANOTHER PLANET
WHY NOT? IF YOU JOINED STUDENT COUNCIL, YOU GUYS COULD BE TOGETHER
I CAN'T!
TELL HIM YOUR FEELINGS?
WHY DON'T YOU
slide
D-DON'T BE SO RIDICULOUS

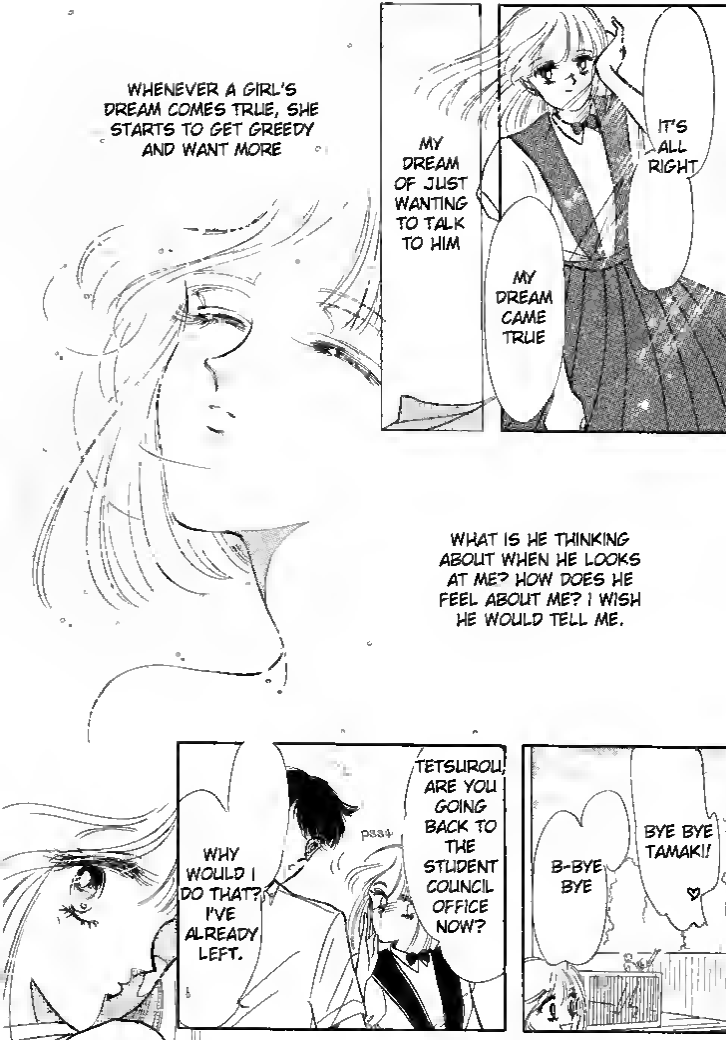
YOO HOO
YOU HAVE A MESSAGE
WHAT DO YOU WANT THIS TIME?
EEK
WONDER
TAMAKI!
IF I SAID TOO MUCH
YOU'VE GOT GUTS, TETSUROU
MAKING A CONTACT IN THE GIRLS CLUB...
LOOK-LOOK
hee hee
MISS TAMAKI, LOOK AT THIS!
WHAT'S THAT BADGE?
S-SHIROU?!
THIS IS EMBARASSING

HEY, GUESS WHAT? I JUST JOINED
THE STUDENT COUNCIL!
MISS TAMAKI
ACK
IF YOU'RE INTERESTED
YOU SHOULD COME WITH ME. (YOU COULD JOIN TOO!)
YOU HAVE TO COME RIGHT AWAY
TO THE OFFICE
HE'S DOING EVERYTHING I CAN'T. I THINK HE'S TRYING TO MAKE ME JEALOUS.
THAT GUY
TAMAKI, YOU'RE SO LUCKY! ♡
WHAT WERE YOU TALKING ABOUT WITH MR. SHIROU?

Student Council Office
MISS TAMAKI
YOU'RE JEALOUS? WE'LL KEEP THAT A SECRET ♡
TEE HEE HEE ♫
AM I INTERRUPTING?
COME IN, IT'S FINE
IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY, YOU WERE ON THE STUDENT FESTIVAL COMMITTEE LAST YEAR, WEREN'T YOU, TAMAKI?
WE'RE DETERMINING WORK ASSIGNMENTS FOR THE NEXT FESTIVAL

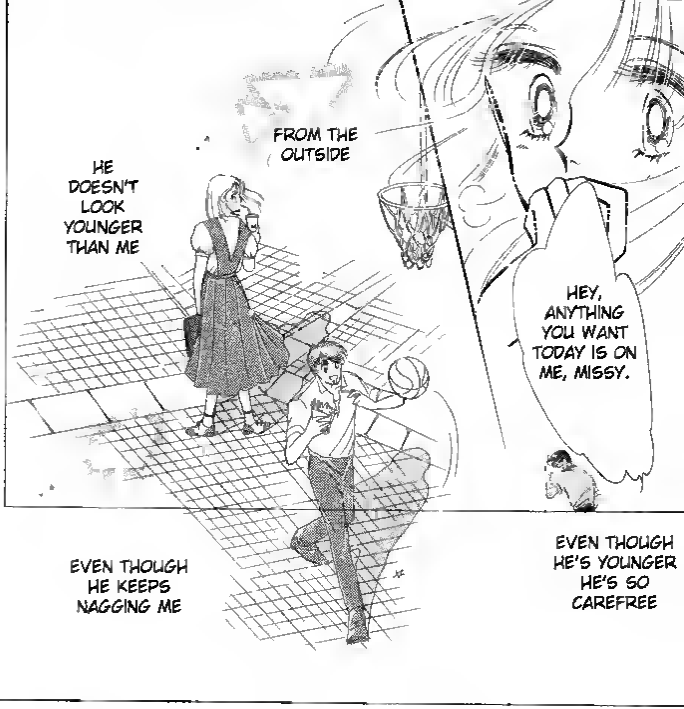

IT'S THANKS TO HIM
THIS IS ALL THANKS TO TETSUROU
TETSUROU IS USUALLY SO SERIOUS
study
BUT IF WE GO WITH THAT PLAN, WE'LL GO OVER BUDGET!
INSTEAD OF JUST LOOKING AT HIS PICTURE
THAT I'VE BEEN ABLE TO GET CLOSER
TO SHIROU
PSST, HEY!
TAMAKI, CAN YOU PLEASE HAND ME THAT GUIDELINE DOCUMENT ?
THIS?
I DON'T UNDERSTAND
?
BUT JUDGING FROM THE FISCAL BUDGET FROM LAST YEAR...
IF WE DO THAT IT'LL TAKE THREE WEEKS!
ah
EXCUSE ME
ACK
AHAHA
BUT
shut
HAHA
OH, NO, THIS ONE, SORRY


SORRY FOR NOT BEING ABLE TO EXPLAIN THIS EASILY...
I'VE GOT TO GO
IF I GET TOO CLOSE TO HIM, HE MAY FIGURE OUT MY FEELINGS
AH HA HA
BYE BYE!
sigh...
MS. TAMAKI!
HEH
SCARED YA
TETSUROU?
I SKIPPED OUT
I WONDER IF I WENT TOO FAR

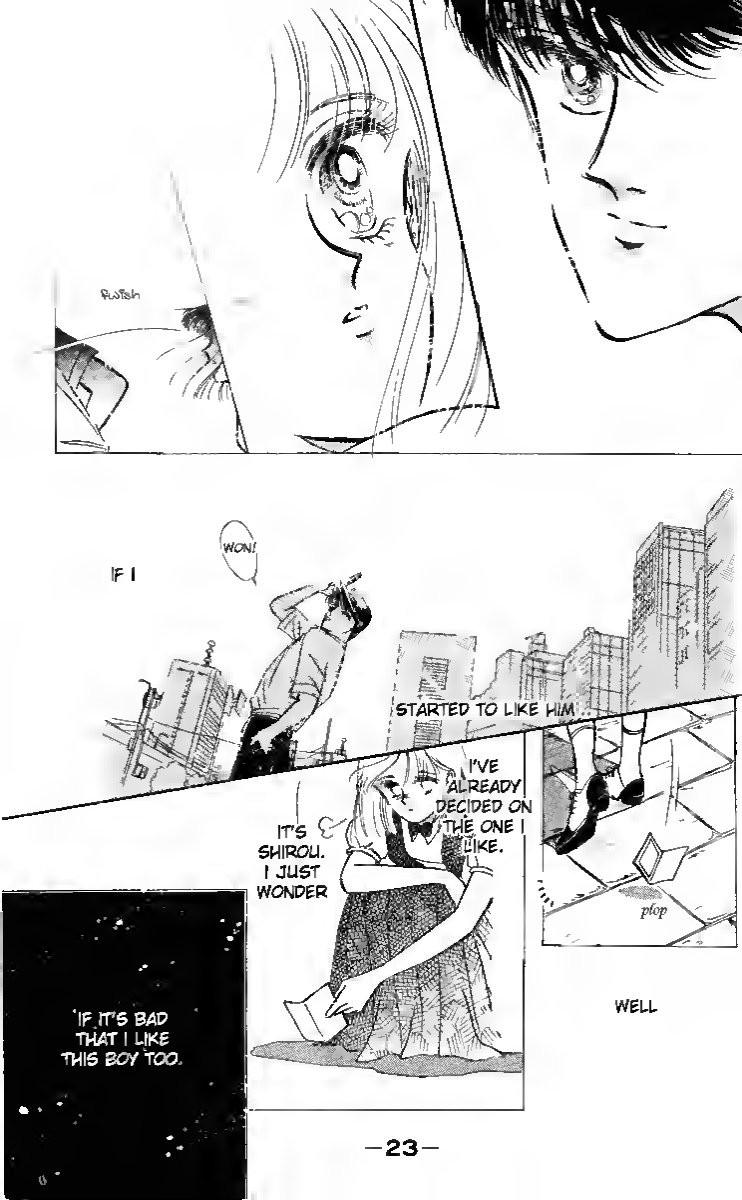

WHENEVER A GIRL'S DREAM COMES TRUE, SHE STARTS TO GET GREEDY AND WANT MORE
MY DREAM OF JUST WANTING TO TALK TO HIM
MY DREAM CAME TRUE
IT'S ALL RIGHT
WHAT IS HE THINKING ABOUT WHEN HE LOOKS AT ME? HOW DOES HE FEEL ABOUT ME? I WISH HE WOULD TELL ME.
B-BYE BYE
BYE BYE TAMAKI!
♡
TETSUROU, ARE YOU GOING BACK TO THE STUDENT COUNCIL OFFICE NOW?
psss
WHY WOULD I DO THAT? I'VE ALREADY LEFT.

DID YOU KNOW? AT OUR SCHOOL, WALKING A GIRL HOME
IS A SIGN THAT YOU'RE DATING HER
INSTEAD OF TELLING A GIRL HOW HE FEELS, A GUY JUST ASKS A GIRL TO WALK HER HOME
DID THAT
SO YOU KNOW, TAMAKI, THAT TIME YOU
HIT ME WITH YOUR BAG
IT MADE IT LOOK LIKE WE WERE A COUPLE
YOU DID THIS, REMEMBER? I WANTED TO WALK HOME WITH SHIROU.
YOU STILL HAVE PLENTY OF CHANCES TO GET CLOSE TO HIM
pat
badum

TAMAKI, YOU CAN STILL JOIN THE STUDENT COUNCIL
Y-YOU PULLED MY HAIR
YOU SHOULD JOIN. SHIROU SAID IT WOULD MAKE HIM HAPPY.
WOO HOO
DON'T SCREAM, GEAZ
I KNOW SHIROU WILL BE HAPPY TO HEAR THAT!
YOU'RE SO PUSHY, GEAZ
I GUESS I WILL


FROM THE OUTSIDE
HE DOESN'T LOOK YOUNGER THAN ME
HEY, ANYTHING YOU WANT TODAY IS ON ME, MISSY.
EVEN THOUGH HE KEEPS NAGGING ME
EVEN THOUGH HE'S YOUNGER HE'S SO CAREFREE

TETSUROU IS CLINGING TO ME


Rustle
WELL
plop
I'VE ALREADY DECIDED ON THE ONE I LIKE.
IT'S SHIROU. I JUST WONDER
IF IT'S BAD THAT I LIKE THIS BOY TOO.
IF I
WON!
STARTED TO LIKE HIM

WOW, YOU'RE AS FAST AS EVER, TAMAKI!
IS IT BAD THAT I FIND HIM CHARMING?
TEE HEE, OF COURSE
HUH, WHERE'S TETSUROU?
LET'S GO DO THE SURVEY FOR THE EXHIBITION GROUP
WHY ARE YOU STARING OFF?
BYE BYE
WHAT?! SHE SAID OKAY?! SO YOU'RE TAKING HER HOME?!
GEAZ, IT'S JUST FOR TODAY
HE'S NOT HERE YET
TETSUROU
HUH?

GLANCE
ARE YOU PLAYING HOOKEY? DO YOU HAVE A JOB OR SOMETHING?!
SORRY
PLEASE FORGIVE ME
ANYTHING
JUST SAY SOMETHING TO SHIROU FOR ME
SORRY
OH WELL
sigh

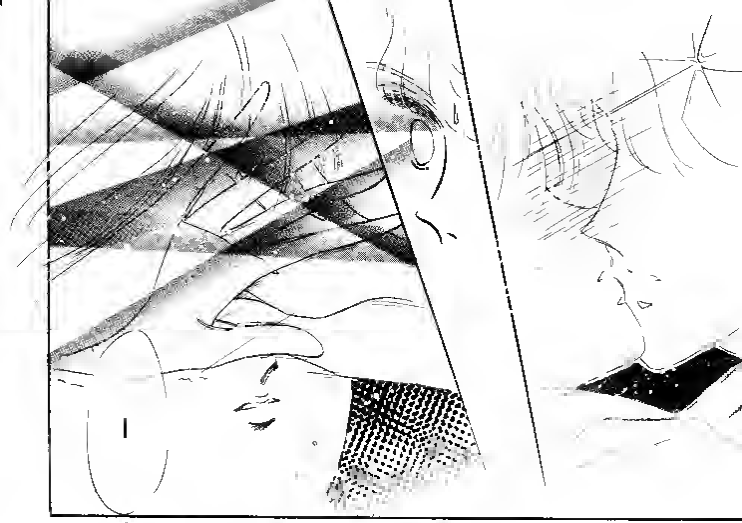
UNTIL NOW, HE WAS CHASING AFTER ME
yawn
I DON'T UNDERSTAND BOYS
BUT NOT ANYMORE, I GUESS
THE CLOCK ISN'T EVEN MOVING ANYMORE. SERIOUSLY?!
OUR TIME IS UP ALREADY, SHALL WE GO?
MISS MIURA, YOU MUST BE THINKING ABOUT SOMETHING SERIOUS
THIS WHOLE TIME
WELL
Jingle
I'M FINE. I'M OKAY, THANKS.
SHALL I WALK YOU HOME?
thud
SHALL WE GO?

TETSUROU
ACK
SORRY, I SPACED OUT WHAT WERE YOU SAYING?
YOU'RE ACTING ALL STRANGE AND SPACEY TODAY
YOU'VE BEEN AVOIDING ME ALL DAY, AND NOW I HEAR YOU'RE WALKING SOMEONE ELSE HOME WHEN YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BE WALKING ME HOME INSTEAD
I'M HUNGRY
YOU'RE CHANGING THE SUBJECT!
WHAT SHOULD I DO
ba-dum
ba-dum
I COULD WALK HOME WITH SHIROU TODAY IF I WANTED TO

MISS MIURA, DO YOU HAVE A BOYFRIEND?
what?
AHAHA, NO, WHY WOULD YOU THINK THAT?
PHEW
I THOUGHT SINCE YOU HUNG OUT WITH TETSUROU SO MUCH YOU GUYS WERE TOGETHER
badum
I'M JUST HAPPY I CAN WALK YOU HOME TODAY, MISS MIURA
NOPE
I WISH!
WELL, WHAT ABOUT YOU?
IT'S STRANGE
MY FEELINGS ARE ALL OVER THE PLACE

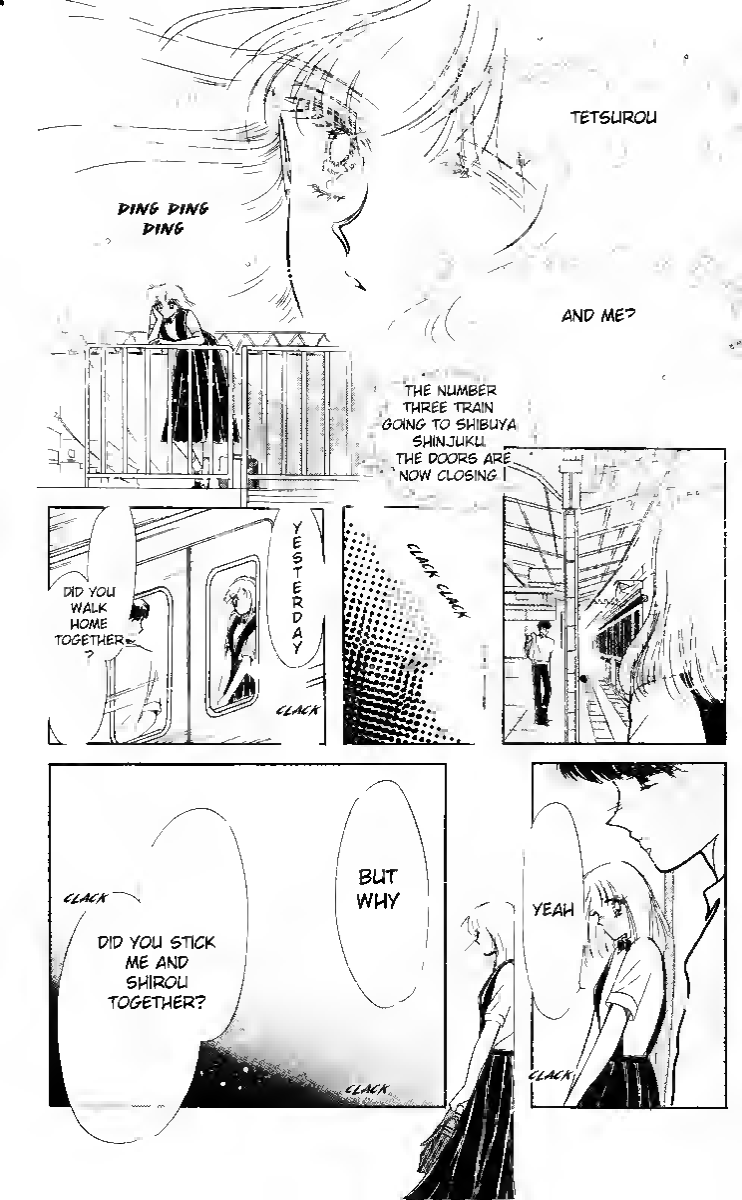
THINKING IS GETTING ME ALL CONFUSED
NOTHING
OHH
WHAT'S WRONG??
ABOUT THIS, TETSUROU WOULD JUST BRAG ABOUT HAVING WALKED ANOTHER GIRL HOME
EVEN IF WE TALKED

TOMORROW, TETSUROU WILL TELL ME ALL ABOUT THE GIRL HE WALKED HOME TODAY, AND AS USUAL MY CONVERSATION WITH HIM WILL BE TOTALLY BARREN



I DON'T WANT THIS

I HAVE THIS FEELING THAT HE'S GOING OUT OF HIS WAY TO GET YOUR ATTENTION, MS. MIURA
HE LOVES YOU
WITH ALL HIS HEART
HE LOVES ME?
SHIROU...
HE TOLD ME
TO WALK YOU HOME
AND ACTUALLY, I DO
HAVE A GIRLFRIEND
OKAY

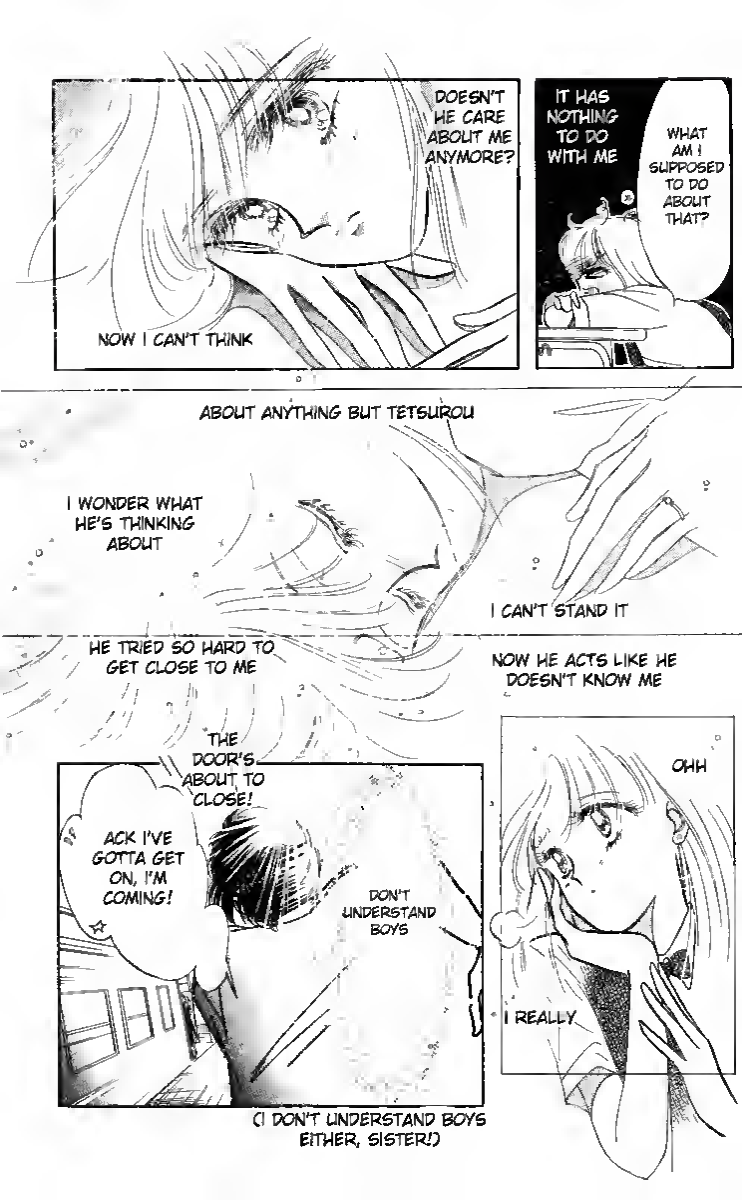

TETSUROU
DING DING DING
AND ME?
THE NUMBER THREE TRAIN GOING TO SHIBUYA SHINJUKU THE DOORS ARE NOW CLOSING
YESTERDAY
DID YOU WALK HOME TOGETHER?
CLACK
CLACK CLACK
CLACK
DID YOU STICK ME AND SHIROU TOGETHER?
BUT WHY
YEAH
CLACK.
CLACK.

bang
dodo
badum
badum
ba dum
badum
HEY
TETSUROU

SHINAGAWA PLATFORM, SHINAGAWA PLATFORM
MISS TAMAKI
YOU'RE A COWARD AREN'T YOU
WHAT
WHAT
IS THIS ?

IF YOU DON'T TELL ME HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO KNOW?
SCREEEECH
dash
CLACK
grab
CLACK
CLACK
WHAT THE HELL?
IF HE HAD
THAT JERK
YELLING INSIDE OF A TRAIN AT HIM WAS JUST EMBARASSING

IT'S OKAY
swoosh
I'VE GIVEN UP ON SHIROU. HE HAS A GIRLFRIEND, AFTER ALL
JUST SAID ONE WORD ABOUT IT
hip
TAMAKI, WAIT, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
I THOUGHT
THAT YOU WERE DATING THAT YOUNGER GUY, TAMAKI
I'M THROUGH WITH THAT JERK
SPEAKING OF WHICH, HE HASN'T BEEN COMING TO SCHOOL
YOU'RE RIGHT. I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM COME TO CLAS IN A LONG TIME. I WONDER WHY?


DOESN'T HE CARE ABOUT ME ANYMORE?
NOW I CAN'T THINK
IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO ABOUT THAT?
ABOUT ANYTHING BUT TETSUROU
I WONDER WHAT HE'S THINKING ABOUT
I CAN'T STAND IT
HE TRIED SO HARD TO GET CLOSE TO ME
NOW HE ACTS LIKE HE DOESN'T KNOW ME
THE DOOR'S ABOUT TO CLOSE!
ACK I'VE GOTTA GET ON, I'M COMING!
DON'T UNDERSTAND BOYS
OHH
I REALLY
(I DON'T UNDERSTAND BOYS EITHER, SISTER!)

badum
whoosh
pant pant
I THOUGHT I WAS GONNA DIE
I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU AT THE COUNCIL MEETINGS EITHER
YELLING AS ALWAYS
giggle
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
.....
.....
I'VE JUST HAD A LOT ON MY MIND SINCE THEN

CLACK
IS SHE YOUR GIRLFRIEND ?
THAT OTHER GIRL
A COWARD
I REALLY AM
badum
A LOT ON YOUR MIND?
NO, IT'S NOT LIKE THAT
WHEN YOU WENT WALKING HOME WITH SHIROU, I FELT MISERABLE
SO I ASKED HER TO COME ALONG WITH ME CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT?
CLACK
CLACK
STOP
MY
WELL, THIS IS
ARE YOU
LEAVING?
THAT'S MY
LINE

badum
HOW I WOULD SAY THIS
blush
BEEN PLANNING
I'VE
NOW I'M FAILING AT THE CRUCIAL MOMENT
click
set her
smile
IT'S OKAY, TETSUROU

★★ the end ★★

TAMAKI peppermint

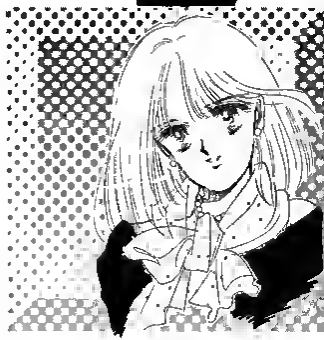
THIS SERIES OF STORIES ABOUT MY TIME AT ICHI HIGH IS CLOSE TO MY HEART. MY ALMA MATER, KOFU ICHI HIGH SCHOOL, WAS HISTORICALLY A BOYS-ONLY SCHOOL. (THE FAMOUS GRADUATE NAKAZAWA SHINICHI WAS THERE!) I LOVED THAT SCHOOL AND ITS FESTIVAL TRADITION - THERE WERE TONS OF THEM! MOST OF MY STORIES FROM AROUND THE TIME OF MY MANGA DEBUT WAS FILLED WITH MEMORIES OF ICHI HIGH.

I WAS ON THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL COMMITTEE DURING MY SENIOR YEAR, AND SPENT A LOT OF TIME GOING TO STUDENT COUNCIL MEETINGS. IT WAS A LOT OF FUN. MY BEST FRIEND BACK THEN WAS A GIRL NAMED TAMAKI, WHO WAS SMART, FUNNY, AND A VERY TALENTED MANGA ARTIST. WE USED TO COLLABORATE ON PROJECTS TOGETHER (EVEN DURING CLASS)! WE ALSO WORKED TOGETHER ON POSTERS FOR THE SCHOOL FESTIVALS.

AND THERE WAS THIS CUTE GUY, AN UNDERCLASSMAN NAMED TETSUROU. HE WAS ON THE STUDENT COUNCIL TOO AND WAS ALWAYS RUNNING AROUND LIKE HE HAD JUST PULLED A PRANK ON SOMEONE. OH, TAMAKI AND TETSUROU, HOW ARE YOU GUYS DOING NOW?

BACK THEN, OUR STUDENT COUNCIL ROOM FACED SOUTH AND AT SUNSET THE SUNLIGHT WOULD FILTER IN THROUGH THE TREES AND INTO OUR OFFICE. "DID YOU KNOW THAT AT OUR SCHOOL, WALKING HOME TOGETHER IS A SIGN THAT YOU'RE DATING?"

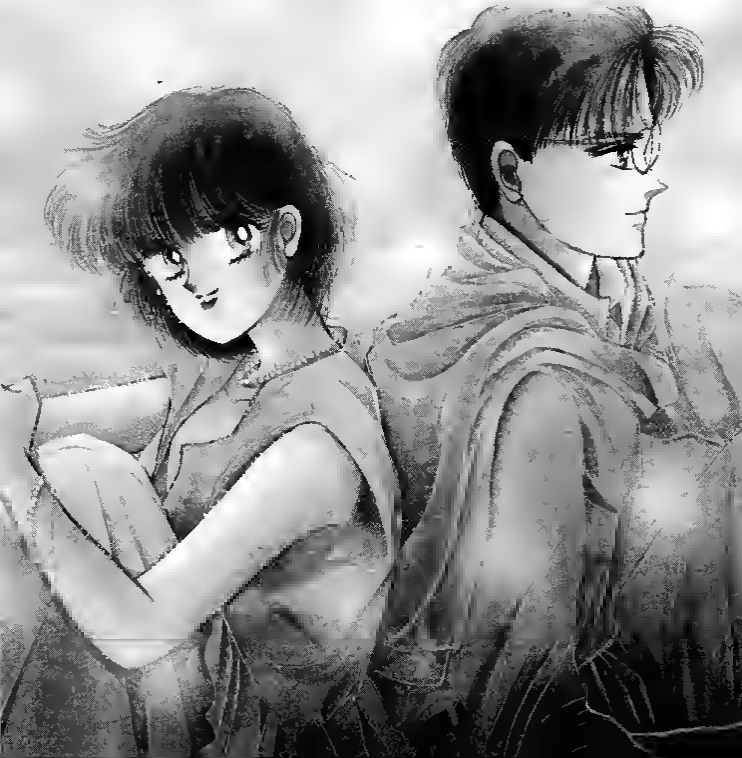
THAT WAS OUR MOTTO BACK THEN, AND WE'D ALWAYS SAY IT TO EACH OTHER AND GIGGLE.



Prism Time

gradation2

Saura・sunset



WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! I JUST SHOWED UP FOR MY FIRST MEETING TODAY SO WHY WOULD YOU-
OUR MOVIE GROUP HAS BEEN AROUND FOR A YEAR NOW
smile
TODAY IS OUR FIRST MEETING TOO
A MOVIE HEROINE ?!
IT'S TERRIBLE WHEN THE ADMINISTRATORS CAME TO OUR MEETING, THEY SAID THEY WERE GOING TO CUT OUR BUDGET BECAUSE WE DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO SHOW, WHICH IS WHERE YOU COME IN.
B-BUT WHY ME?!

HERE'S THE PLAN: TO GET OUR SPONSORSHIP BACK, WE'RE GOING TO MAKE A VIDEO FOR THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL. YOU HAVE TO BE OUR LEAD ROLE, MITSUI, OR WE AREN'T GOING TO GET FUNDING!
IT'LL BE FUN, MS. MITSUI
kadum
kadum
kadum
YOU'RE REQUIRED TO JOIN AN EXTRACURRICULAR CLUB, AND YOU LIKE CINEMA, RIGHT?
YOU DON'T WANT TO JOIN A SPORTS GROUP, DO YOU?
THERE ARE ONLY TWO GIRLS IN OUR GROUP
OH HEY, DO YOU KNOW HIM?
I KNOW HIM
HE'S
THE DIRECTOR
HE'LL ALSO BE IN THE FILM
MR. HIROSHIMA

Scene 1
mutter
mutter
I KNOW HIM
HE CAUGHT MY EYE THE FIRST TIME I SAW HIM
Sad shop
OH NO, WE'LL GET SOAKED, TAKE COVER!
HEY, WAIT A MINUTE
THE FIRST TIME WAS AT THE FESTIVAL
IT WOULDN'T STOP
RAINING
pour.
ROLL
HEARTLESS JERKS

PLOP
ACK
aachoo
sniffle
shine
THAT WAS

AHH
HOW WE MET
HUH
SPLASH SPLASH
flutter
bodum
aachoo
WHO WAS THAT?
WHO WAS THAT?
YEAH
YOU'RE SOAKING WET, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
bodum
OH, THANKS SAURA!
♡

badum badum badum badum
OH
YOUR COAT
grip
badum
WILL YOU BUY A PINWHEEL FROM OUR FESTIVAL ♡ STAND?
badum
finish
UH, WHAT?
HOW MUCH ARE THEY?
$1000
WHAT?!
JUST KIDDING
HERE

THE SCRIPT IS JUST A RETELLING OF OUR FIRST MEETING!
THIS
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS
THAT WAS JUST THE BEGINNING
THIS ONE IS ON ME!
DO YOU LIKE TAKKU?
MR. HIROSHIMA ?!
MY NAME IS ISHIBASHI RIYO, JUST CALL ME RIYO. MISS MITSUI, MAY I CALL YOU SAURA? ♡
HIS NAME IS HIROSHIMA TAKKU. HIS FIRST NAME IS TAKKU.
TAKKU ?
AND THIS ONE, 'SAURA', IS THAT SUPPOSED TO BE ME? HE DIDN'T EVEN ASK MY PERMISSION...
TAKKU, RIYO... AREN'T THESE THE NAMES OF THE CAST MEMBERS?

DIDN'T YOU KNOW? ALL THE NAMES IN THIS FILM ARE REAL
THE PARTS ARE ALL LINED UP, AND "SAURA" IS THIS FILM'S HEROINE
WHAT ABOUT "RIYO"?
WHO'S THAT?
TEE HEE HEE ♡
IS SHE REALLY HIS GIRLFRIEND?
THAT'S THE ROLE OF TAKKU'S GIRLFRIEND
GROUP PRESIDENT...
twirl
IT'S DIRECTOR, JEEZ! DOESN'T RIYO LOOK SO CUTE?
DOESN'T IT LOOK LIKE IT?
THEY'VE BEEN TOGETHER FOR OVER 10 YEARS NOW, AND HAVE BEEN THROUGH MANY UPS AND DOWNS

badum
I GUESS HE WAS CHECKING YOU OUT FOR THE ROLE AT THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL
W-WHAT DO YOU MEAN? THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE, WE BARELY SPOKE TO EACH OTHER AT THE FESTIVAL!
smirk
MS. MITSUI
TAKKU ALREADY DECIDED THAT YOU WERE THE HEROINE
YOU PERVERT, YOU'RE QUICK TO TOUCH HER, AREN'T YOU, MR. DIRECTOR?
AM NOT!
pull
OH, COME ON RIYO, YOU'RE ALWAYS FLIRTING
THIS IS AN IMPORTANT PROP WE'LL BE USING THROUGHOUT THE FILM
TAKKU! COME ON, HURRY UP AND FINISH THE SCRIPT!

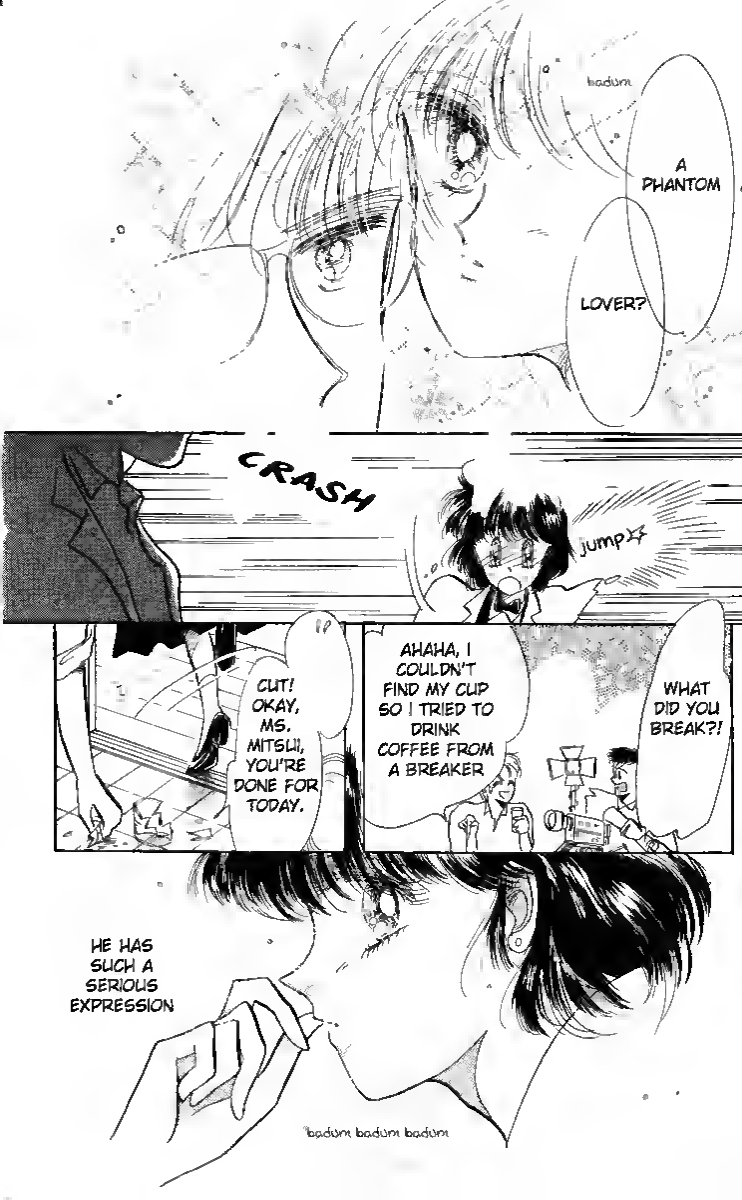
DIRECTOR, YOU WERE SELLING PINWHEELS DURING THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL, WEREN'T YOU?
NO, THAT WASN'T HIM, THAT WAS TAKKU!
HE SOLD THE PINWHEELS REALLY CHEAP OR JUST GAVE THEM AWAY FOR FREE TO HIS FRIENDS AND UNDERCLASSMEN. WE BARELY MADE ANY MONEY AT ALL!
I BET YOU GAVE ALL THE PINWHEELS AWAY THAT YOU WENT THROUGH THE TROUBLE OF MAKING ALL ON YOUR OWN
THAT'S NOT TRUE
I ONLY GAVE ONE PINWHEEL AWAY
to tadami
HUH
turn
OH
I'M GONNA GO BUY SOME JUICE
M-ME TOO

DID TAKKU GIVE YOU
A PINWHEEL?
SAURA
badum badum
OH NO. WHAT COULD HIROSHIMA BE UP TO WITH ALL OF THIS?
I WAS KIND OF FORCED INTO THE PURCHASE, EVEN THOUGH I DIDN'T PAY FOR ONE. HE WANTED TO CHARGE ME ¥1000
AHAHA, THAT WEIRDO
YEAH
UMMM. YEAH
badum
I WONDER
I LIED
TO HER
ARE ALL THESE CARBONATED? HANG ON. TAKKU NEVER DRINKS THESE.
I THINK WE BOUGHT ENOUGH FOR NOW

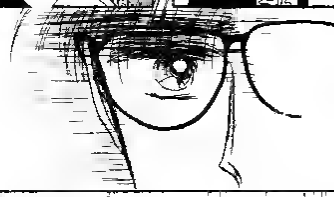
THERE'S BEEN A LOT MORE COUPLES AROUND HERE SINCE THE FESTIVAL
plunk
HE WON'T EVEN TOUCH THEM
HE'S SUCH A KID
ONCE IN A WHILE!
SO RIYO, DO YOU WALK HOME WITH HIROSHIMA THEN?
AT OUR SCHOOL, WALKING HOME TOGETHER IS A SIGN THAT YOU'RE DATING
RIYO HAS A SPARKLING PERSONALITY
rub rub
THIS IS JUST FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF YOU TWO, SO YOU CAN SAY ANYTHING APPROPRIATE FOR YOUR FIRST MEETING, OKAY? ACTION!
BREAK A LEG!
THE NEXT SCENE IS THE MEETING OF THE MAIN CHARACTERS, RIGHT?
crack, pop

ANYTHING APPROPRIATE ...
Scene 2
scene
I WONDER IF IT'LL WORK OUT
THIS SCRIPT ISN'T FINISHED YET
ACK
WHAT'S THE PLOT OF THE MOVIE LIKE?
I LOVE THE EVENING
IT FEELS LIKE A LONG CORRIDOR OF TIME THAT COULD STRETCH ON FOREVER

ACK!
blush
I SAW A MOVIE ONCE
I CAN HEAR THE SOUND OF CRASHING WAVES
AND FAR OFF IN THE DISTANCE
ON A PLANET ALL ALONE, JUST THE TWO OF US
AND THE MAIN CHARACTER MET A PHANTOM LOVER ON A TRAIN PLATFORM, WATCHING THE OCEAN AT SUNSET.
WHERE THERE WAS A PLANET WHERE THE OCEAN WAS ACTUALLY ALIVE
LOVER?
A PHANTOM

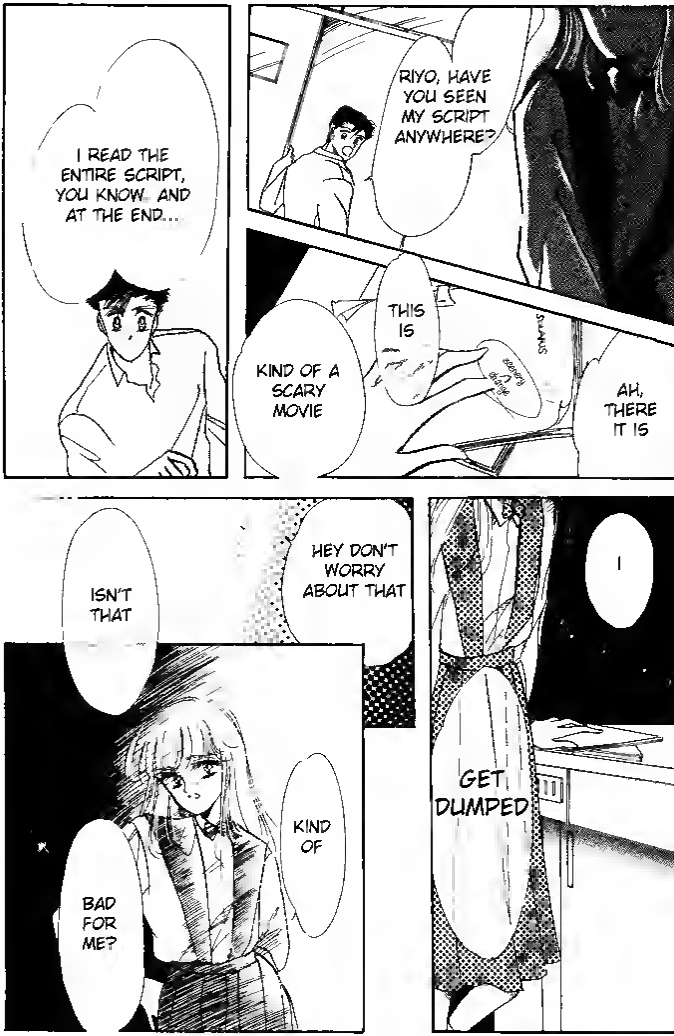

badum
A PHANTOM LOVER?
CRASH
jump☆
WHAT DID YOU BREAK?!
AHAHA, I COULDN'T FIND MY CUP SO I TRIED TO DRINK COFFEE FROM A BREAKER
CUT! OKAY, MS. MITSUI, YOU'RE DONE FOR TODAY.
HE HAS SUCH A SERIOUS EXPRESSION
badum badum badum

clink
JUST LIKE TAKKU
HE JUST LOOKS STRAIGHT AGAIN, THAT HIROSHIMA GUY
1-3
TAKKU?
peek
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
TAKKU! I WAS JUST ABOUT TO ASK YOU THE SAME THING. EVERYONE ELSE WENT HOME ALREADY.
DID SOMEONE STAY BEHIND?
JUST MY PHANTOM LOVER



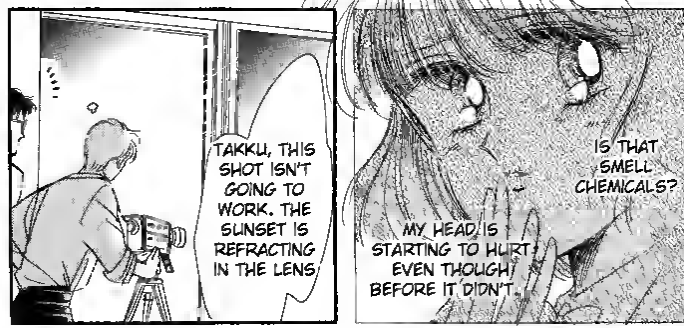
HE ONLY GAVE ONE AWAY

spin spin
spin
spin
I'M SO DEPRESSED. I WISH EXAMS WERE OVER ALREADY.
chatter
25
7th Grade Middle School Schedule
1
2
3
4
5
chatter
I WONDER WHY THIS MAKES ME FEEL SO HAPPY
YOU SEEM HAPPY
YOU'RE LATE
HUFF
AND I HAVE MOVIE GROUP TOO... AND SINCE EXTRACURRICULARS END ONE WEEK BEFORE FINAL EXAMS, EVERYTHING'S BEEN EXTRA BUSY
TAKKU AND MS. MITSUI ARE ALWAYS UNUSUALLY CHEERFUL
EVERYONE'S ALREADY HERE
I DON'T CARE ABOUT THIS DUMB MOVIE ANYMORE
Homeroom

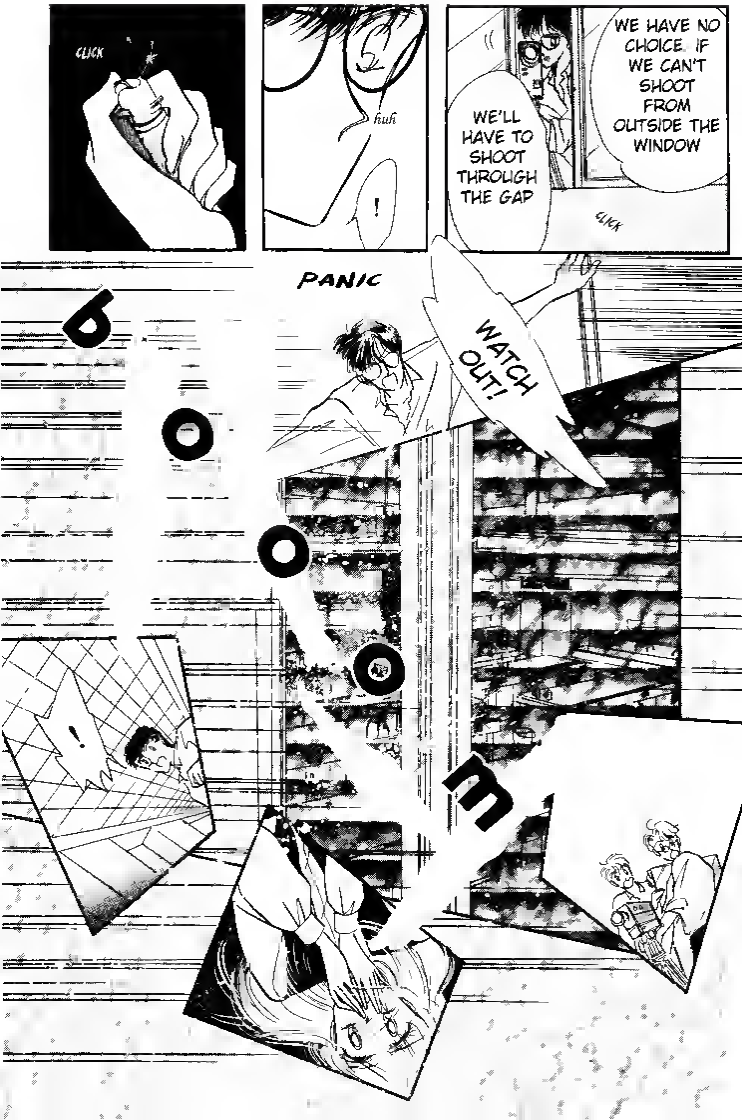

I READ THE ENTIRE SCRIPT, YOU KNOW. AND AT THE END...
RIYO, HAVE YOU SEEN MY SCRIPT ANYWHERE?
THIS IS
KIND OF A SCARY MOVIE
SCRIPT
AH, THERE IT IS
I
GET DUMPED
HEY DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT
ISN'T THAT
KIND OF
BAD FOR ME?

I DON'T WANT TO BE IN THIS MOVIE ANYMORE
WHY DO YOU SAY
THIS MOVIE IS "SCARY"?
WELL
I JUST THINK THAT WITH FINALS COMING UP
THUD
MOST PEOPLE WON'T WANT TO WATCH A I MOVIE
CLICK
I DON'T THINK WE'LL GET MUCH OF AN AUDIENCE
PLUS, TAKKU IS KIND OF INSENSITIVE TO BEGIN WITH
CLICK
I DON'T THINK MANY PEOPLE WILL COME TO SEE HIS MOVIE
CLICK
DIRECTOR! THE ADVISORY PANEL WANTS TO SEE YOU!
CLICK
SEE YA!
BYE BYE

LET'S SEE. MS. MIURA DOES A DANGEROUS EXPERIMENT WHILE SHE'S WORRIED. WE'LL TAKE THE SHOT FROM OUTSIDE.
WHAT SCENE ARE WE ON?
IF WE KEEP WAITING FOR HIM WE'LL BE UP ALL NIGHT
☆
DIRECTOR, YOU'RE LATE
☆


TAKKU, THIS SHOT ISN'T GOING TO WORK. THE SUNSET IS REFRACTING IN THE LENS
IS THAT SMELL CHEMICALS?
MY HEAD IS STARTING TO HURT. EVEN THOUGH BEFORE IT DIDN'T.

THIS THING IS A BUNSEN BURNER ⇨ IF LIKE THIS, IT'S ON ⇨× IF IN THIS POSITION, IT'S OFF - NO GAS FLOW


CLICK
hufi
!
WE HAVE NO CHOICE. IF WE CAN'T SHOOT FROM OUTSIDE THE WINDOW
WE'LL HAVE TO SHOOT THROUGH THE GAP
CLICK
PANIC
WATCH OUT!
b
o
o
o
o
m
!

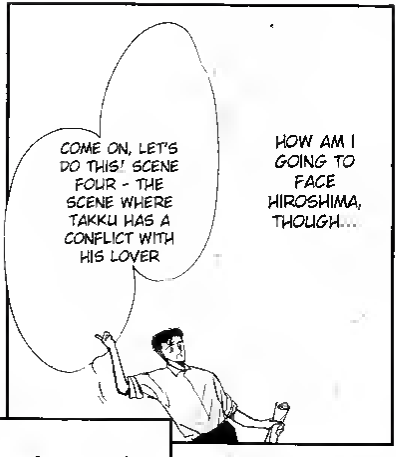
EXPLODE
CUT
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I'M JUST GLAD YOU'RE ALIVE
TAKKU, YOUR ARM IS BLEEDING!
HEY, BUT WE WERE THERE
SOMEONE PROBABLY FORGOT TO TURN OFF THE BURNER AFTER THE LAST CLASS
I DID SMELL SOMETHING, BUT THE CHEMISTRY LAB ALWAYS SMELLS LIKE THIS
rub
JEEZ, DIDN'T YOU NOTICE ANYTHING WEIRD WHEN YOU ENTERED THE ROOM?

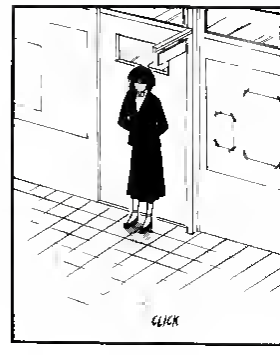
WE WERE IN THE CHEM LAB JUST A MOMENT AGO AND IT DIDN'T SMELL LIKE GAS. RIGHT?
DID THEY ALL KNOW I'D BE IN THERE ALONE, BY MYSELF?
NO ONE ELSE WAS THERE EXCEPT THE MOVIE GROUP
MAYBE I'M THINKING TOO MUCH
THIS IS AWFUL. IT LEFT A SCAR. ☆ (NOW I'LL NEVER BE A BRIDE)

TAKU!
WHAT A VOICE... DID I SURPRISE YOU THAT MUCH?
I WAS COMING TO ASK IF YOU'D HAVE LUNCH WITH US. DID YOU ALREADY EAT?
OH HIROSHIMA
AHHH
JUMP
I TOLD YOU ABOUT BEFORE
IN THE MOVIE
ALL YOU
smile
THINK ABOUT IS MOVIES
BUT THEN SHE COMES BACK TO LIFE. WHICH IS SURPRISING, SINCE SHE WASN'T HUMAN TO BEGIN WITH. IT WAS A HUGE SHOCK. JUST LIKE NOW.
THERE'S A SCENE WHERE THE PROTAGONIST'S PHANTOM LOVER DRINKS LIQUID OXYGEN AND DIES

I'M OKAY. IT'LL HEAL SOON. WHAT ABOUT YOUR INJURY, HIROSHIMA?
OH
THAT'S NOT
TRUE
twish
HUH
dash

WAS ALL THAT?
hug
WHAT
HIATUS?!
HAVE YOU NOTICED? THAT HAPPENS A LOT
WHAT ARE YOU GOING ON ABOUT?
WHAT! THIS IS HIDEHIKO'S FAULT! HE'S OUR ADVISOR BUT HE HASN'T SHOWED UP EVEN ONCE!
MAYBE WE SHOULD JUST CALL IT... A POSTPONEMENT
NO, WE HAVEN'T DECIDED THAT YET. WE JUST THOUGHT SINCE WE'RE CLOSE TO FINALS.. AND THEN THERE WAS THAT ACCIDENT WITH THE BURNER...
HOW CAN YOU TRY TO BLAME THE BURNER INCIDENT ON SOMEONE ELSE AT A TIME LIKE THIS?! (IT'S NOT THAT BIG A DEAL!)

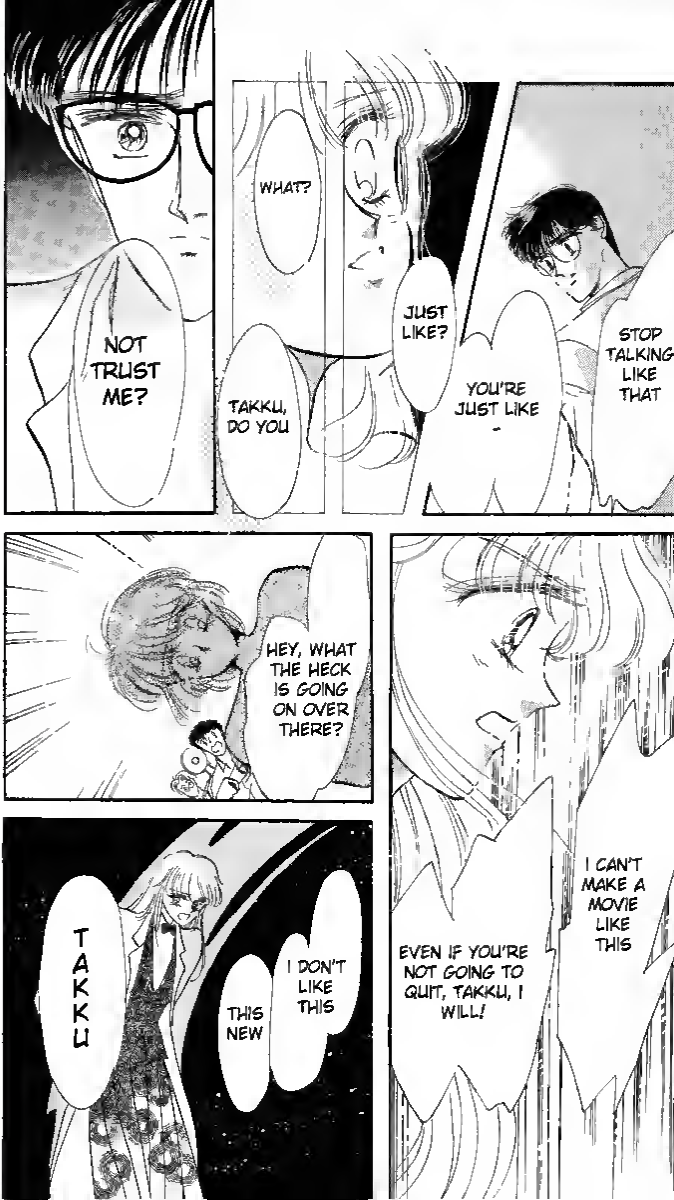




I'M ACTUALLY REALLY RELIEVED TO HEAR THIS

Scene 4

IF SAURA WERE REALLY IN TROUBLE, WHY SHOULD YOU JUMP IN FRONT OF HER TO GET HURT TOO?
DID YOU DO IT?
WHY
SHE SHOULD BE ABLE TO HANDLE HERSELF
flutter


STOP TALKING LIKE THAT
YOU'RE JUST LIKE -
JUST LIKE?
WHAT?
TAKKU, DO YOU
NOT TRUST ME?
I CAN'T MAKE A MOVIE LIKE THIS
EVEN IF YOU'RE NOT GOING TO QUIT, TAKKU, I WILL!
HEY, WHAT THE HECK IS GOING ON OVER THERE?
TAKKU
I DON'T LIKE THIS
THIS NEW

HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT SAURA
ISN'T AN ACT
TAKKU
WHAT DO YOU REALLY THINK OF ME?
AM I JUST HERE TO PRETEND TO BE YOUR FRIEND?!
TAKKU
YOU NEED TO TELL ME HOW YOU FEEL
DIRECTOR WHAT DO WE DO?
IT'S FINE
GO, MS. MITSUI
I'M SORRY

MAKE YOURSELF CLEAR
I WILL
SOMEHOW
shock
!

I KNEW SHE WAS YOUR PHANTOM LOVER!!

tap

YOU ARE

YOU'RE LEAVING THE TWO OF US HERE

TOGETHER

ARE YOU SERIOUS?
WOW, THAT SCENE WAS SO REALISTIC
GRAB
CUT!
I HEAR YOU
DIRECTOR DIRECTOR
REALLY IS CRYING
RIYO
Swish
I'M REALLY SCARED

CREAK
TODAY
THERE'S NO ONE HERE
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S REALITY, AND WHAT'S JUST PART OF THE MOVIE
I DIDN'T CALL ANYONE IN. ISN'T TODAY THE FIRST DAY OF FINALS?
ARE YOU STUDYING?
NO
DID YOU
GET IN A FIGHT WITH RIYO?

DRINKING AND PARTYING ALL NIGHT LONG
FOR A REALLY LONG TIME, WHENEVER ANY OF US DID ANYTHING, WE WERE ALWAYS TOGETHER
SHE'S JUST REALLY ATTACHED TO ME
I THOUGHT WE WERE
JUST FRIENDS
YOU CAN CALL ME A MENTAL CASE
BUT I NEVER THOUGHT ANYTHING OF IT
BUT NOW I GET THE FEELING
THAT IT'S A LOT MORE COMPLICATED THAN THAT
tap
SHALL WE HEAD OUT?
LET'S QUIT THE MOVIE

MAKE THE MOVIE
WE HAVE TO
badum badum badum
I'LL GO AND FIND EVERYONE
grab
flutter

THERE'S JUST A LITTLE MORE LEFT TO GO, SO WORK HARD!
MS MITSUI
WE WERE OUT BUYING SOME THINGS
I THOUGHT EVERYONE WENT HOME ALREADY
!
I'LL GO CALL RIYO
JUST A LITTLE LEFT...
CLUNK
HUH, TAKKU?

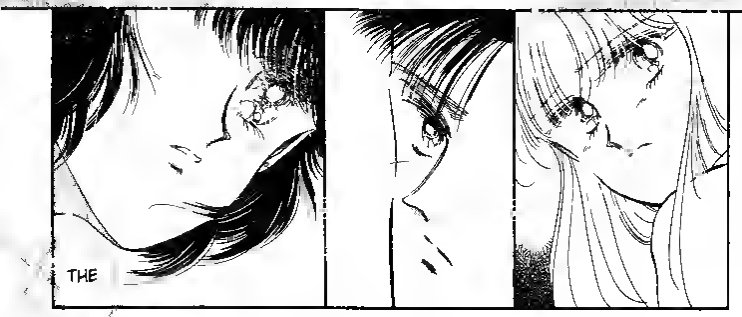
SORRY, I'M IN A HURRY
RIYO
flutter
tap
!
SAURA, HEY
COME ON
LET'S GO
EVERYONE IS WAITING... LET'S GO TO THEM

LET'S GO
I'M NO MATCH FOR YOU
SAURA
SOMEONE GO FIND TAKKU, WE'RE STARTING SOON
pat
GO
RIYO, YOU GO AHEAD,
I'M GONNA TAKE A BREAK
poke
stare

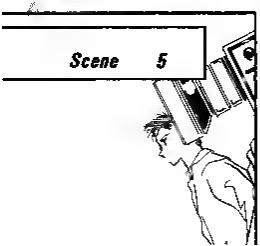
DO YOU
STILL HAVE A SCAR?
OH, IS IT MY TURN?
WAS ME
THE ONE WHO TURNED ON THE BURNER
I THINK IN SIX MONTHS IT'LL BE AS GOOD AS NEW. BUT YOU SHOULD WORRY ABOUT HIROSHIMA MORE THAN ME
BURNS ARE SCARY! I'VE HAD LOTS OF THEM
I'M SORRY!
IT WAS ONLY SUPPOSED TO SCARE YOU. I DIDN'T THINK YOU WOULD GET HURT
WHAT?

I DIDN'T WANT TO SEE RIYO GET HURT
I JUST THOUGHT THAT TAKKU WAS TAKING EVERYTHING TOO FAST.
JUST LIKE RIYO, WHEN SHE TALKS ABOUT TAKKU
THE DIRECTOR'S EYES ARE SHINING
I GET IT
AND GOT SCARED, DID YOU?
TAKKU MADE THIS MOVIE TO TRY TO MAKE HIS FEELINGS CLEAR. YOU DIDN'T REALIZE THAT.

I AM THE PHANTOM



THE PHANTOM LOVER!

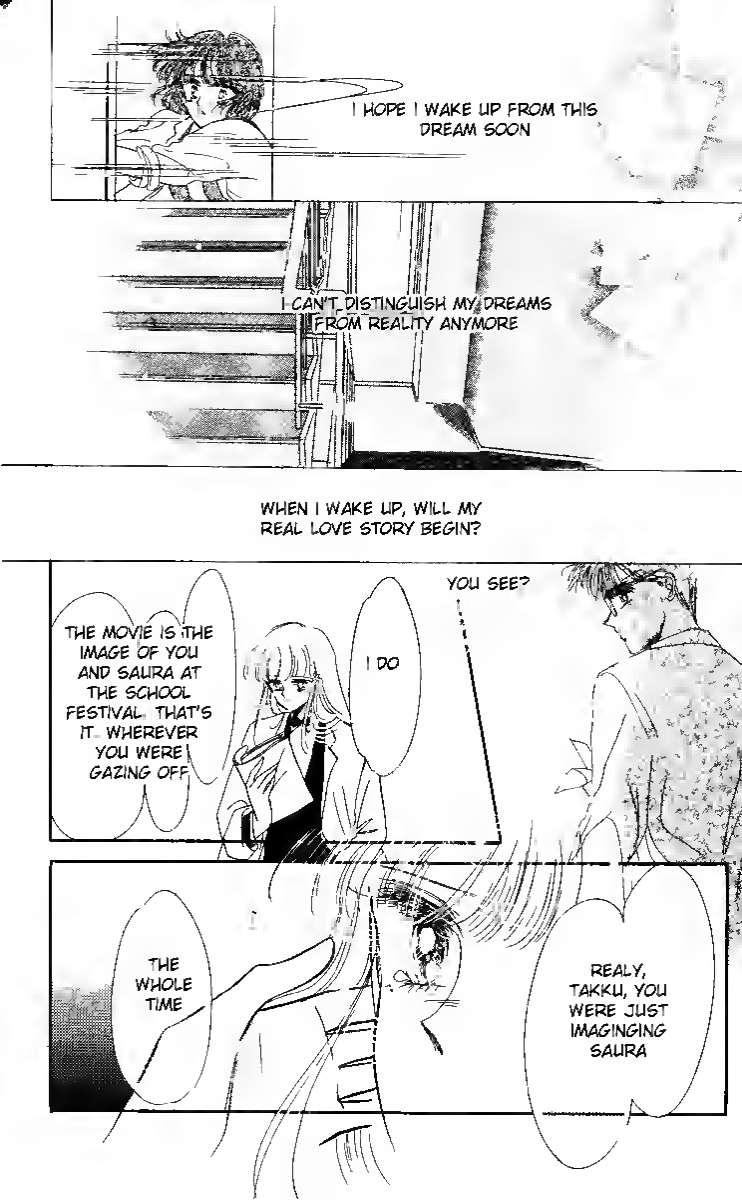


I SAW
YOU AND TAKKU, IN THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL STANDING IN THE RAIN
I ACTUALLY
SAW TAKKU AND SAURA TOGETHER
AS IF YOU WERE JOINED THROUGH ALL ETERNITY
AS IF YOU WERE ETERNAL LOVERS
THE TWO OF YOU HAD SOME KIND OF MYSTERIOUS ATMOSPHERE AROUND YOU

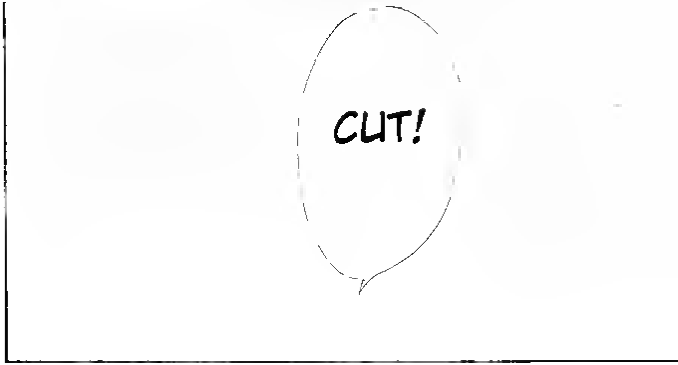
EVERY TIME
I SAW YOU IN THE MOVIES
IT REMINDED ME
THAT'S NOT TRUE
ALL YOU THINK ABOUT IS MOVIES
IT'S NOT LIKE
WHERE ARE YOU?
TAKKU
spin
THAT

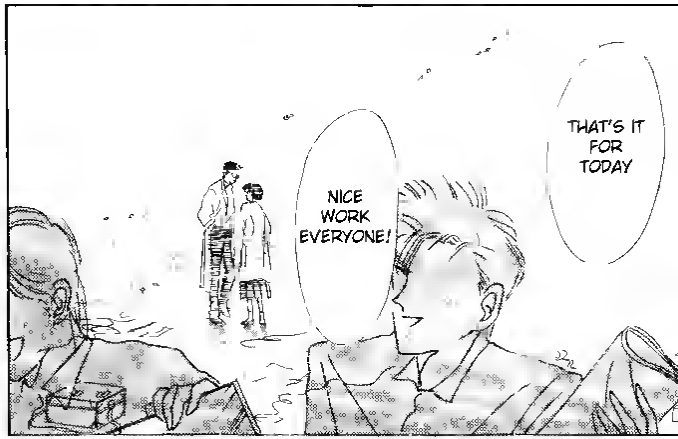
TAKU
HERE YOU GO
THEY'RE GLITTERING
AS IF WE WERE ON A PLANET SOMEWHERE TOGETHER
spin spin spin

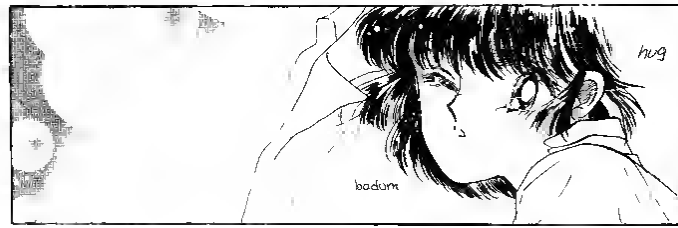
IS IT TOO LATE?
I WOULDN'T TAKE YOUR HAND
SOMEHOW, THIS REMINDS ME OF SLEEPING BEAUTY
TAKKU'S EYES
AREN'T LIKE ANYTHING I'VE EVER SEEN IN A MOVIE BEFORE


I HOPE I WAKE UP FROM THIS DREAM SOON
I CAN'T DISTINGUISH MY DREAMS FROM REALITY ANYMORE
WHEN I WAKE UP, WILL MY REAL LOVE STORY BEGIN?
YOU SEE?
I DO
THE MOVIE IS THE IMAGE OF YOU AND SAURA AT THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL. THAT'S IT. WHEREVER YOU WERE GAZING OFF
THE WHOLE TIME
REALY, TAKKU, YOU WERE JUST IMAGINGING SAURA

SAURA WAS ALWAYS THERE
gasp
I'D LIKE YOU TO HAVE
THIS
THIS IS THE BEGINNING


CUT!


THAT'S IT FOR TODAY
NICE WORK EVERYONE!


hug
badum

★★ the end ★★

Saura Sunset

SAURA, HOW ARE YOU DOING? SAURA IS THE NAME OF ONE OF MY BEST FRIENDS FROM MIDDLE SCHOOL. SHE WAS AMAZING AT SINGING AND PLAYING PIANO, AND SHE TAUGHT ME ALL ABOUT THE MAGIC OF MUSIC. TAKKU, NOW HE WAS MY DREAM MAN! ZEALOUS, MYSTERIOUS, A LITTLE QUIET AND WEARS GLASSES. IN THE MANGA, I MADE THE REAL TAKKU LIKE THAT.

THE MOVIE I TALKED ABOUT IN THE STORY IS ONE THAT I'M REALLY FOND OF. IT'S CALLED "SOLARIS," AND IT'S DIRECTED BY TARKOVSKY. IN THE MOVIE, THE MAIN CHARACTER MEETS HIS SUPPOSEDLY DEAD WIFE ON A TRIP TO THE STRANGE PLANET "SOLARIS" (I CHANGED THIS IN THE MANGA TO A "PHANTOM LOVER" INSTEAD), AND OVER THE COURSE OF THE STORY THE GUY HAS A NERVOUS BREAKDOWN. IT'S A MOVIE FROM RUSSIA RELEASED IN 1972, BUT IN ONE OF THE FUTURISTIC SCENES OF THE MOVIE IT SHOWS A HIGH-SPEED NIGHT TIME VIEW OF AKASAKA DISTRICT IN TOKYO. THAT'S RIGHT - TOKYO AT NIGHT LOOKS LIKE A FUTURISTIC CITY. IT'S VERY SCIENCE FICTION!

THE MOVIE IS QUIET BUT IMPRESSIVE. IT'S BASED ON THE BOOK SOLARIS BY STANISLAW LEM. IF YOU'RE INTERESTED, YOU SHOULD CHECK IT OUT! (BUT BE CAREFUL, YOU MIGHT FALL ASLEEP!)

WHEN I WAS WRITING THIS MANGA, I WAS STILL IN COLLEGE WEARING A WHITE LAB COAT EVERYDAY AND DOING LOTS OF ODD EXPERIMENTS WITH TEST TUBES AND A BUNSEN BURNER. I DID THEM DAY AND NIGHT. I LOVED DOING EXPERIMENTS. (SOMETIMES I USED TO BRING MY MANUSCRIPT OF THIS STORY TO COLLEGE, AND MY CLASSMATES WOULD ERASE IT!)

AND OF COURSE THERE'S LOVE FOR MY ALMA MATER. THE BIGGEST EVENT AT KOFU ICHI HIGH WAS THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL. I LOVED IT SO MUCH.

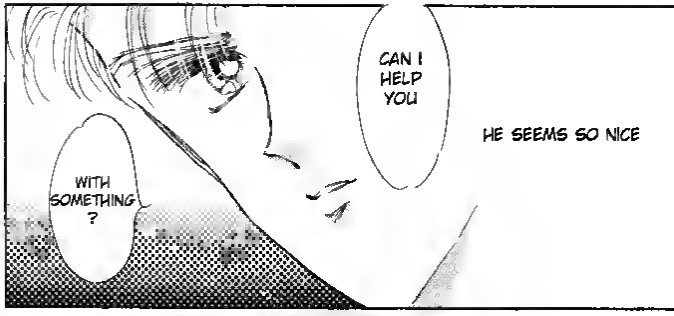
THIS MANGA IS ONE THAT IS FILLED WITH IMAGES FROM MY PAST THAT I LOVE.

Prism Time

gradation3

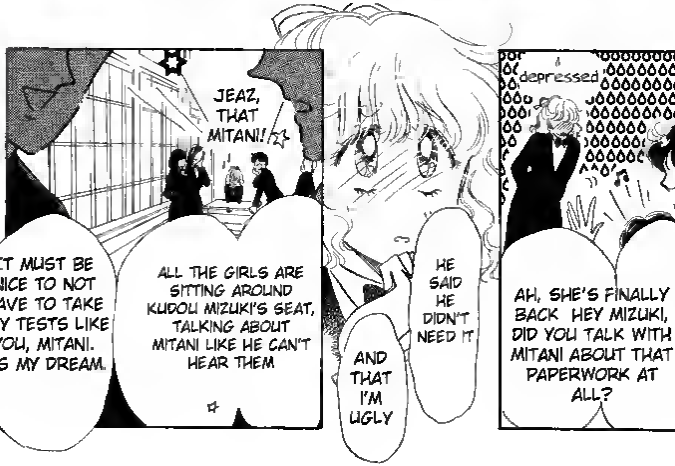
Mizuki・moonglow

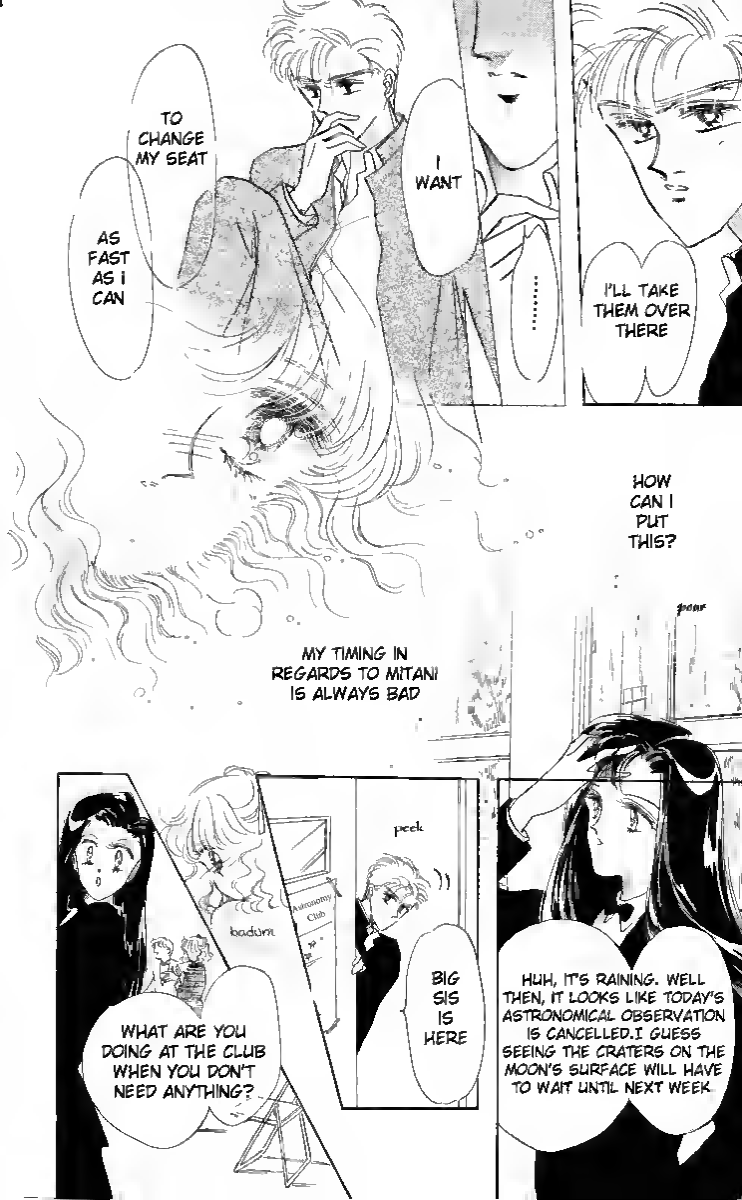
MITANI
HIROKI
YOUR GAZE IS
HEAVY
HUH
blush
BUT WHEN HE LAUGHS
YOU'RE COOL (AND WILY) AND WITTY (WITH A SHARP TONGUE)
MITANI ~ YOU RE TOO SELF CONSCIOUS



CRUSHED
U-UGLY
twitch
UGHH, WHY ARE WE DOING CAREER SURVEYS ALREADY? WE'RE ONLY FRESHMEN (EVEN THOUGH I'M BIG)
I DON'T NEED ONE OF THOSE, UGLY
WHAT? OH UM, YEAH... ABOUT THOSE CAREER SURVEYS...

HE'S NEVER SMILED AT ME, NOT EVEN ONCE


JEAZ, THAT MITANI!
IT MUST BE NICE TO NOT HAVE TO TAKE ANY TESTS LIKE YOU, MITANI. IT'S MY DREAM.
ALL THE GIRLS ARE SITTING AROUND KUDOU MIZUKI'S SEAT, TALKING ABOUT MITANI LIKE HE CAN'T HEAR THEM
AND THAT I'M UGLY
HE SAID HE DIDN'T NEED IT
depressed
AH, SHE'S FINALLY BACK HEY MIZUKI, DID YOU TALK WITH MITANI ABOUT THAT PAPERWORK AT ALL?


TO CHANGE MY SEAT
AS FAST AS I CAN
I WANT
.....
I'LL TAKE THEM OVER THERE
HOW CAN I PUT THIS?
MY TIMING IN REGARDS TO MITANI IS ALWAYS BAD
peek
Astronomy Club
bashint
BIG SIS IS HERE
WHAT ARE YOU DOING AT THE CLUB WHEN YOU DON'T NEED ANYTHING?
HUH, IT'S RAINING. WELL THEN, IT LOOKS LIKE TODAY'S ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATION IS CANCELLED. I GUESS SEEING THE CRATERS ON THE MOON'S SURFACE WILL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL NEXT WEEK.

WHEN YOUKO AND MITANI SIT NEXT TO EACH OTHER, THEY LOOK LIKE THE PICTURE PERFECT IMAGE OF BROTHER AND SISTER, DON'T THEY?
THEY'RE SO COOL
I HEARD THAT THEY'LL GO BACK TO GERMANY WITH THEIR PARENTS EVENTUALLY
THEY LIVE TOGETHER IN THE SHIROGANE CONDOS
MITANI DEFINITELY HAS A SISTER COMPLEX*
I CAN UNDERSTAND THAT THOUGH, HIS SISTER IS SO BEAUTIFUL
hmm
HEY, WHERE'S THE ASTRONOMY CLUB YEAR BOOK?
HEY, LOOK, HE'S GOING HOME, EVEN THOUGH ONLY COUPLES WALK HOME TOGETHER RIGHT NOW - I'D HATE TO BE CAUGHT OUTSIDE GOING HOME RIGHT NOW!

*NOTE:
NOTE EXCESSIVE LOVE FOR ONE'S SISTER-S:-, USUALLY PAST THE POINT OF ORDINARY BROTHER-SISTER/SISTER-SISTER AFFECTION, OFTEN USED AS A TEASE OR INSULT FOR A SOMEONE WHO IS OVERLY PROTECTIVE OF HIS/HER SISTER

YOU'RE KIND OF LIKE A LONE WOLF
THERE'S NO SPACE FOR ANYONE TO WALK WITH YOU
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY GOING HOME TOGETHER IS PROOF THAT YOU'RE GOING OUT
AT ALL
HEY, KUDOU!
MAYBE
huh
DID YOU DISTRIBUTE THE CAREER SURVEY TO EVERYONE?
IT'S AN IMPORTANT DOCUMENT THAT GETS ADDED TO STUDENTS' RECORDS. BE SURE TO COLLECT THEM AND BRING THEM TO ME.
MITANI WENT HOME WITHOUT TAKING ONE. WOULD IT BE A GOOD IDEA TO CALL HIM?
I DON'T NEED UGLY
NO WAY
...WHAT DO I DO?
IT SEEMS LIKE HE'LL GET ANGRY AT ME AGAIN. I WONDER IF HE'LL ACTUALLY LISTEN TO ME OVER THE PHONE?
THAT TEACHER IS TROUBLE

YURIE IS STRICT

AH! H-HELLO
I WOULD BE OKAY IF HE DOESN'T ANSWER
HI, THIS IS MITANI. WHO IS THIS?
click
I FEEL LIKE I WANT TO HEAR HIS VOICE, BUT...
pink pink
I WANT TO, BUT I DON'T WANT TO
AH, PLEASE WAIT A MOMENT
HIROKI
UM, I AM... KUDOU, OF YEAR ONE CLASS THREE...
bodum
MISS YOUKO
ROCKY, PHONE
"ROCKY"...?*
HELLO
*NOTE: ROCKY IS A COMMON NICKNAME OF PEOPLE NAMED HIROKI

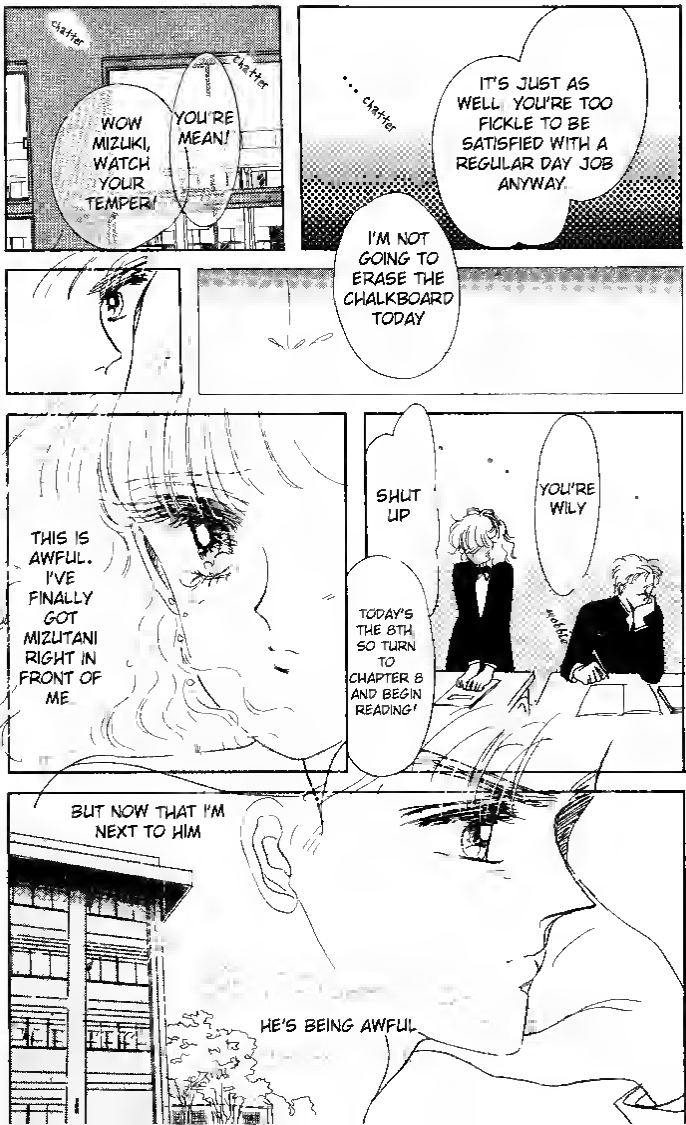
I WONDER IF HE THINKS I'M JUST A NAG
HE'S SILENT
IT'S PART OF YOUR STUDENT RECORD OR SOMETHING, AND IT'S IMPORTANT SO, UM...
AH. H-HELLO? UM... ABOUT TODAY'S CAREER SURVEY...
TH-THAT'S IT...
WHAT...
...THAT'S IT?
---DON'T SAY IT, THAT THING FROM BEFORE
WHAT?
click
ROCKY?
ROCKY, PHONE!
FROM BEFORE?
click
GOOD BYE
snatch

ROCKY...
WHAT - THEY PUT ME ALL THE WAY IN THE FRONT ROW AGAIN? SERIOUSLY?!
YOU'RE SO SLOW. ALL BUT TWO PEOPLE HAVE DRAWN THEIR SEATING SLIPS, AND MR. TSURUTA IS ABSENT TODAY.
badom badom
HAS EVERYONE DRAWN THEIR ASSIGNMENTS FROM THE BOX YET?
MIZUKI, DID YOU DO IT?
wiggle wiggle
clatter
YES, I DID

I HOPE I DRAW NUMBER 3
THE SEAT NEXT TO MITANI ISN'T TAKEN YET
NUMBERS 19 AND 3 ARE MISSING
19
17
badum
badum
flutter
flutter

slam
crunch
KUDOU
DID HE SEE?!
LOOK AT ME
HE JUST SAW ME
THIS IS EMBARASSING
CLATTER
OH NO
ACK!
HE'S IN THE SEAT RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME, BUT I CAN'T CONCENTRATE ON ANYTHING. HE LOOKS SO SERIOUS FOR A CHANGE.
WHAT'S HIS PROBLEM?

IN HIGH SCHOOL, I WANTED TO BE A DOCTOR

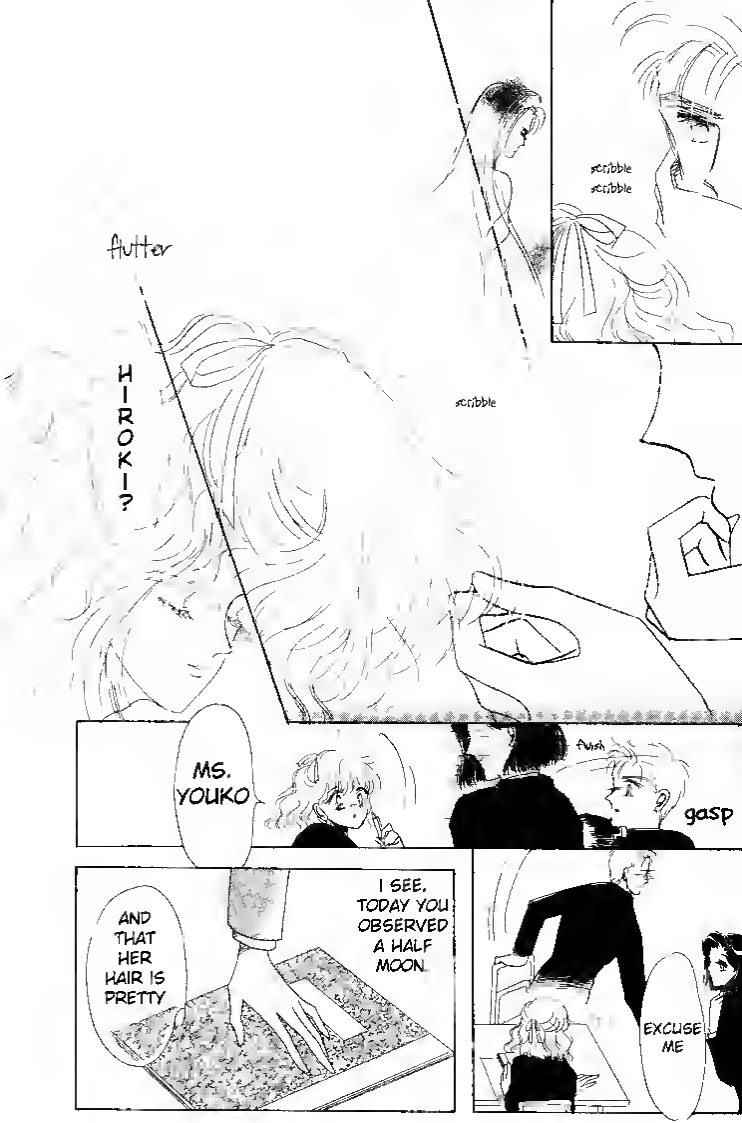

chatter
chatter
WOW MIZUKI, WATCH YOUR TEMPER!
YOU'RE MEAN!
...chatter
IT'S JUST AS WELL. YOU'RE TOO FICKLE TO BE SATISFIED WITH A REGULAR DAY JOB ANYWAY.
I'M NOT GOING TO ERASE THE CHALKBOARD TODAY
THIS IS AWFUL. I'VE FINALLY GOT MIZUTANI RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME.
SHUT UP
YOU'RE WILY
TODAY'S THE 8TH, SO TURN TO CHAPTER 8 AND BEGIN READING!
BUT NOW THAT I'M NEXT TO HIM
HE'S BEING AWFUL

NO WAY ☆
YOU THREW AWAY MISS YOUKO'S STRAND OF HAIR, HUH? WHY DIDN'T YOU KEEP IT?
HEY, WAIT A MINUTE! BUT THAT'S A GOOD OPPORTUNITY!
peek
?
DID YOU HAND YOUR PAPERWORK IN TO THE TEACHER, HIROKI?
☆
☆ WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO CUT HER HAIR?
HEY - WAIT JUST A MINUTE. YOU GUYS LIVE WITH ME AND STILL THINK I'D DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT?!
I DON'T WANT TO SEE EITHER OF YOU
YOU ALWAYS DO STUFF LIKE THAT
BESIDES YOU NEVER TALK TO US AT HOME ANYWAY
EXCUSE ME, IS IT OKAY IF WE LEAVE THE ASTRONOMICAL TELESCOPE ON THE ROOF?
glance

OH NO
MIZUKI, ARE YOU GOING TO BE IN THE CLASSROOM KEEPING THE LOG BY YOURSELF TONIGHT?
HEY, MIZUTANI, WHAT ARE YOU STILL DOING HERE? ARE YOU ON THE DAY SHIFT?
MS. KUDOU
I WAS JUST REFLECTING ON MY FAILURES, BUT I CAN'T TALK ABOUT THAT. IT'S TOO SHAMEFUL.
gasp
I-I WAS GOING TO START WRITING IN A MINUTE
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
blank page
ack

OH NO. HIS LIPS ARE RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME...
MS. KUDOU
MS. KUDOU
stiff
scribble scribble
clatter
gasp
OH NO. IF I CRY NOW THEN...
pap
SOMEHOW I FEEL
A LITTLE SAD

sniffle sniffle
THUD
I'm dead
pat pat
sniffle
sob
OH
AM I DONE WITH DOING THE LOG ENTRIES?
fwish
flutter
OH JEEZ
I CAN'T LET HIM SEE MY FACE LIKE THIS...


scribble
scribble
flutter
HIROKI?
scribble
MS. YOUKO
push
gasp
I SEE. TODAY YOU OBSERVED A HALF MOON
AND THAT HER HAIR IS PRETTY
EXCUSE ME

Staff Room
OH!
I'M SORRY THAT IT'S SO LATE, BUT HAVE YOU ALREADY COLLECTED ALL OF THE CAREER FORMS?
OH, I'M JUST MISSING MIZUTANI'S
OH NO, I DON'T WANT ANYONE TO SEE MY FACE ☆ LIKE THIS
I WONDER WHAT THIS DOCUMENT IS?
SORRY, HE FORGOT!
YOU SAID THAT IT WAS DUE TODAY, BUT HE WAS ON DAY SHIFT SO HE SAID TO BRING THIS TO YOU BY THE END OF THE DAY
toss
TODAY WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO VIEW A BEAUTIFUL, HUGE FULL MOON
LET'S GO EAT DINNER
HOW MUCH TIME IS THERE BEFORE WE CAN WATCH THE MOON?

WHAT DO YOU THINK, KUDOU? YOU GUYS WERE UP ON THE ROOFTOP TOGETHER, RIGHT?
I WANT
TO CHANGE MY SEAT
HIROKI, YOU'RE THE BEST
I'M NOT
I'M NOT THE RIGHT TYPE FOR THIS
HEY, WAIT. DON'T FEEL THAT HOPELESS, OKAY?

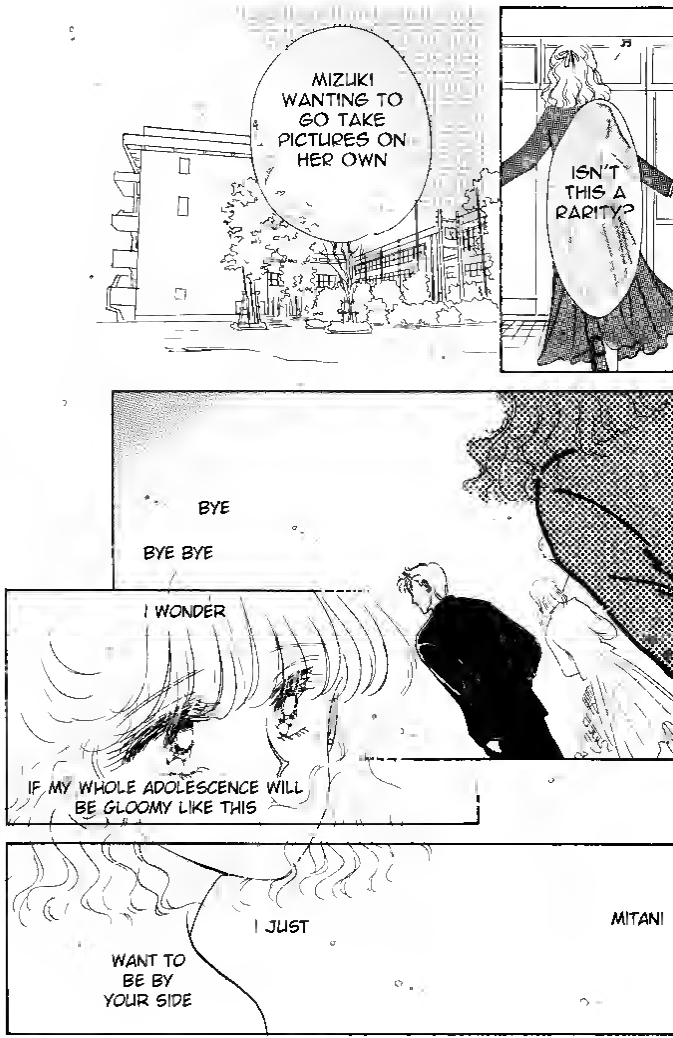
I'M THE ONE WHO'S BAD AT EVERYTHING
I'M JUST
ALWAYS GOING TO BE
INCOMPLETE
LIKE A CRESCENT MOON*
*NOTE: THE NAME MIZUKI MEANS "CRESCENT MOON" - THIS LINE IS A PUN

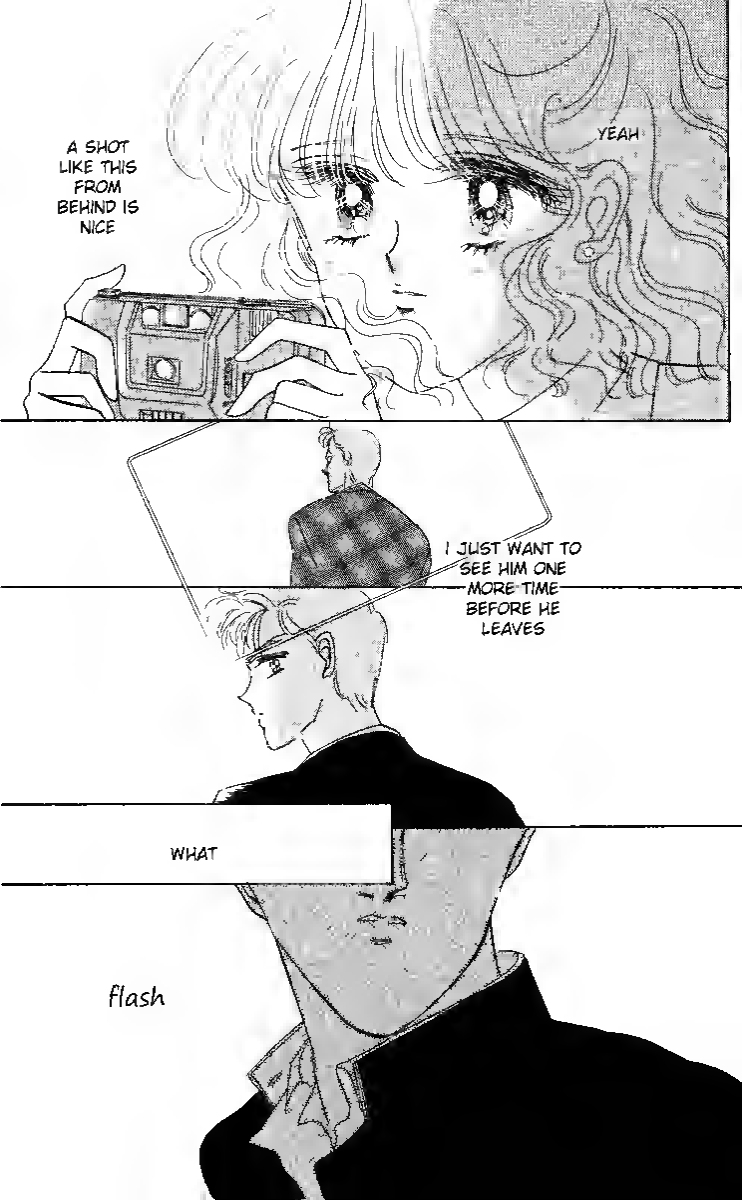
HUH?
I WAS SURPRRISED THIS MORNING - SEEMS LIKE MIZUTANI IS GOING BACK TO GERMANY ALL OF A SUDDEN
I BET MISS YOUKO WAS REALLY SHOCKED ☆ TOO
THE PAPERWORK HE GAVE HER
WAS SCHOOL TRANSFER FORMS
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, GERMANY?
HEY! COME TAKE A PICTURE!
Wahh!
COME ON MIZUKI, GET IN THE PICTURE TOO! ♡
WE'RE GETTING IN THE PICTURE TOO! ♡

THE CAMERA SHUTTER IS HERE
COME ON KUDOU, KUDOU
OKAY HERE GOES!
IT'S NICE TO SEE HIM SMILING
YEAH, BUT AT LEAST WE GOT A PICTURE OF ALL OF THE GUYS TOGETHER
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN NICE IF MIZUKI WAS IN THE SHOT TOO
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! HOME-ROOM HAS STARTED!
I WISH HE'D SMILE FOR ME
JUST ONCE

ISN'T IT WEIRD HOW MITANI CAN FLARE UP AT PEOPLE? IT'S TOO BAD ABOUT HIM AND MIZUKI THOUGH.
IT'S TOO BAD THEIR TIMING IS OFF. NO POINT WORRYING ABOUT THAT NOW THOUGH.
THE POINT
THAT'S
HAHA
OH, THAT'S OKAY
I WANTED
I COULD TAKE THE CAMERA BACK OUT (YEAH TAKE ONE!) ♡
SHALL I TAKE A PICTURE WITH YOU AND MITANI LATER?
ONE OF THE PICTURES
AM I NOT GOOD ENOUGH?
WHY

clench
I WANT
A PICTURE
HEY
IF I COULD BOROW YOUR CAMERA AFTER SCHOOL
I WAS WONDERING IF IT WOULD BE OKAY
UMM
I KNEW IT! YOU GUYS WERE SPENDING WAY TO MUCH TIME IN THE CLUB ROOM TOGETHER AFTER ALL.
NO WAY, I WASN'T EVEN THINKING ABOUT THAT!
GOOD LUCK!
blush
YOU'RE GOING TO GET A PICTURE OF MITANI?!
HEY! IT MUST BE, MIZUKI
IT'S FINE BY ME, BUT IT NEEDS MORE FILM

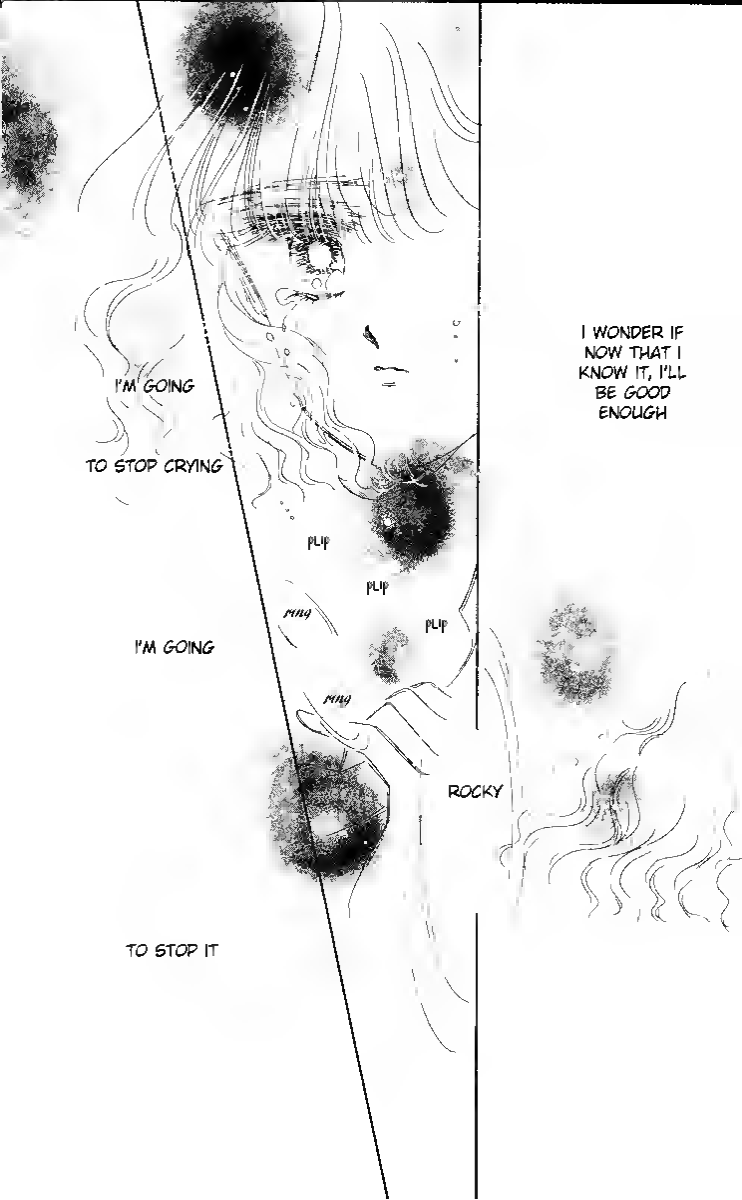

MIZUKI WANTING TO GO TAKE PICTURES ON HER OWN
ISN'T THIS A RARITY?
BYE
BYE BYE
I WONDER
IF MY WHOLE ADOLESCENCE WILL BE GLOOMY LIKE THIS
I JUST
WANT TO BE BY YOUR SIDE
MITANI


A SHOT LIKE THIS FROM BEHIND IS NICE
YEAH
I JUST WANT TO SEE HIM ONE MORE TIME BEFORE HE LEAVES
WHAT
flash

WHY DO I ALWAYS HAVE SUCH TERRIBLE TIMING?!
NO WAY
WHAT
ARE YOU TRYING TO DO?
IF I TOOK YOUR PICTURE, I THOUGHT
I WOULD BE ABLE TO TELL YOU
HOW I REALLY FEEL

IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING YOU WANT TO SAY TO ME, THEN SAY IT!
WHAT I WANTED TO SAY
DOESN'T MATTER
AT ALL
I JUST
HEY! WHAT ABOUT THE FILM INSIDE THERE.
fwoosh

I JUST WANTED TO GET A PICTURE OF YOU BEFORE YOU LEAVE!
THAT WAS IT
click
HELLO, ROCKY?
ring
ring
ring
ring
ring
THE LONG AWAITED PASSWORD
HELLO?


I WONDER IF NOW THAT I KNOW IT, I'LL BE GOOD ENOUGH
I'M GOING
TO STOP CRYING
PLIP
PLIP
PLIP
I'M GOING
ROCKY
TO STOP IT

DONE WITH ALL THE FORMALITIES AROUND HERE, HUH MITANI?
WE HEARD YOU JUST HAD THE GERMAN MEASLES. THAT'S ALL, JUST GERMAN MEASLES? ♡
BUT HEY MAN, THIS IS STILL HOMEROOM
chatter
chatter
huh?
OHH, MITANI, YOU KNOW WE WERE ALL PLANNING A FAREWELL PARTY FOR YOU, WE THOUGHT YOU WERE LEAVING
WHERE'S YOUKO?
peep
I'VE NEVER HAD THAT BEFORE

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MIZUKI
YOU THINK I'M TERRIBLE
IS THERE SOMETHING YOU'VE FORGOTTEN? ROCKY.
grip
NOT REALLY

I'M NOT THE RIGHT TYPE

IF THERE'S SOMETHING YOU WANT TO SAY TO ME

THEN SAY IT

WHAT YOU SAID

I'M SURE

BEFORE

THIS IS THE LAST TIME I'LL SEE HIM

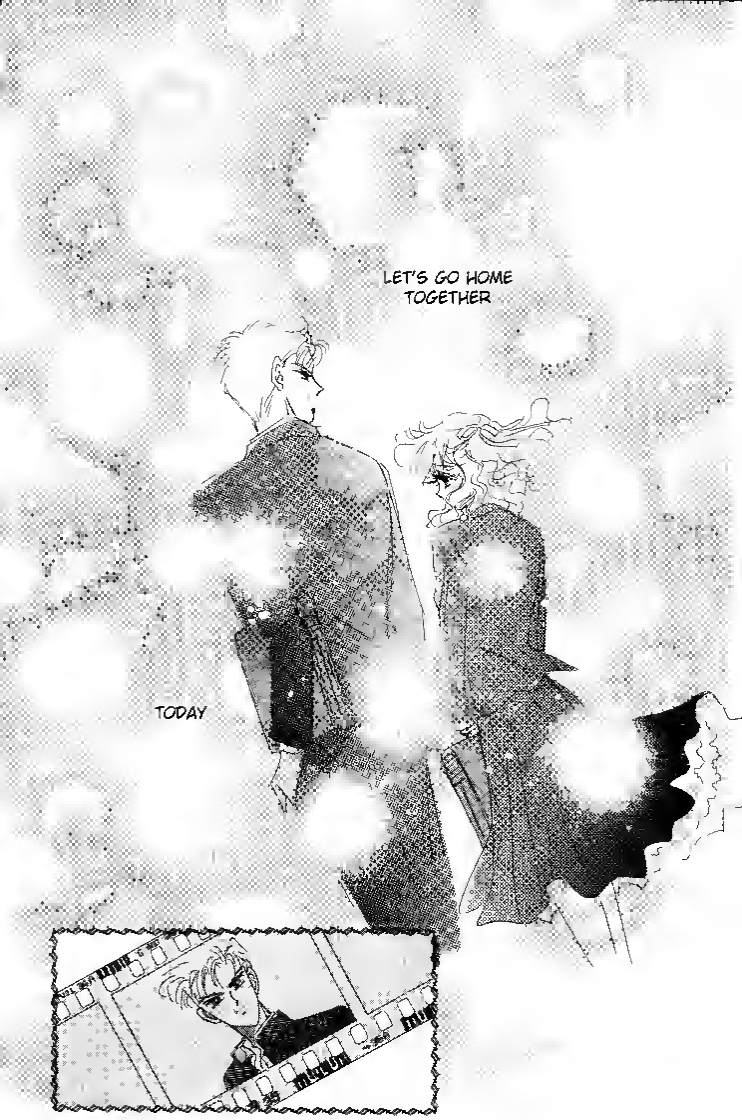
RO
ROCKY

HIROKI?
hug
ROCKY
ROCKY
ROCKY
ROCKY, I

I WANT TO TELL YOU SOMETHING
SO BADLY I COULD DIE
pant
pant
gasp
WHY CAN'T YOU TELL ME?
WHY CAN'T YOU
WHAT YOU WANTED TO SAY
GIVEN UP ON ME?
HAVE YOU ALREADY

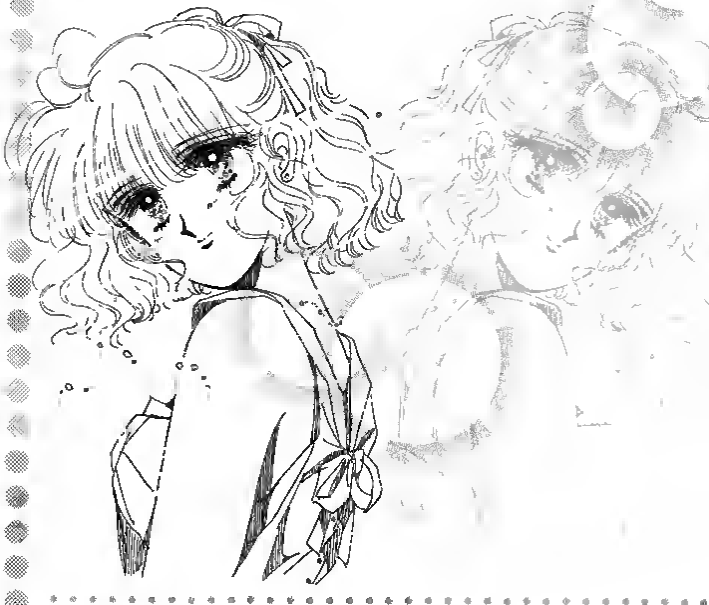
ROCKY
I LOVE WATCHING
YOUR LIPS AS THEY FORM THE SYLLABLES OF MY NAME

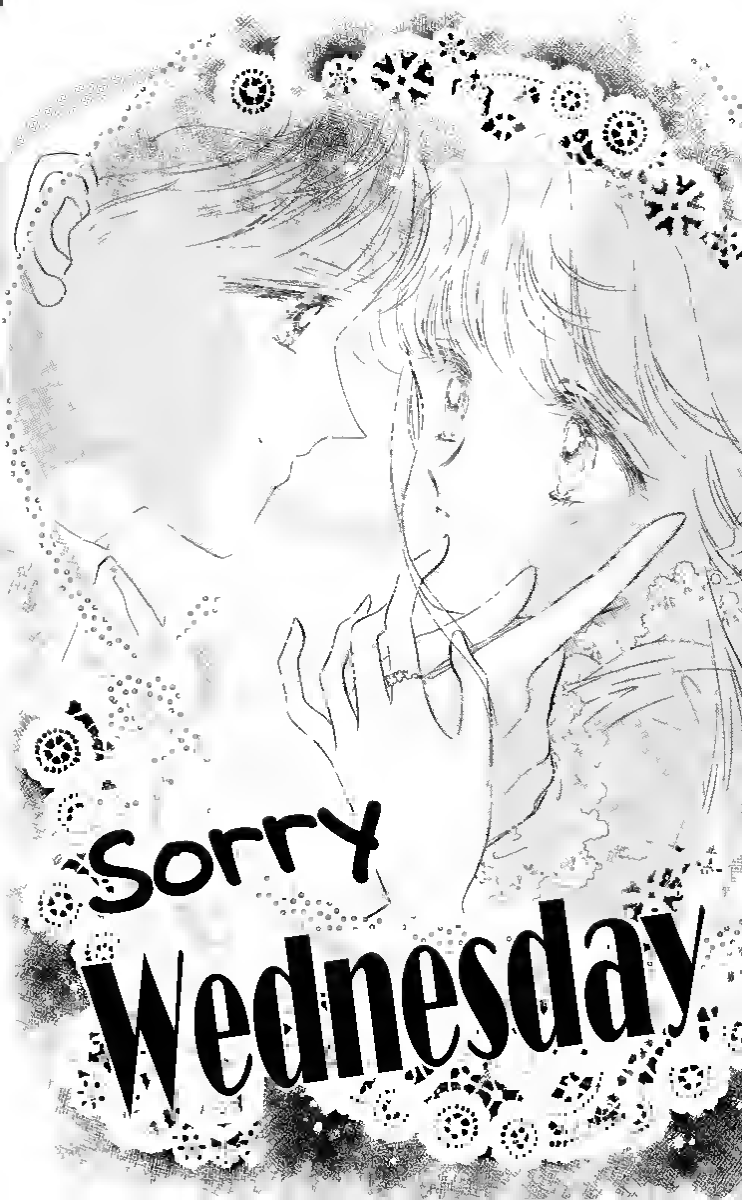
BUT YOUR PICTURE, ROCKY
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ELSE
WHAT?
I DON'T WANT YOU TO GO
DON'T LEAVE

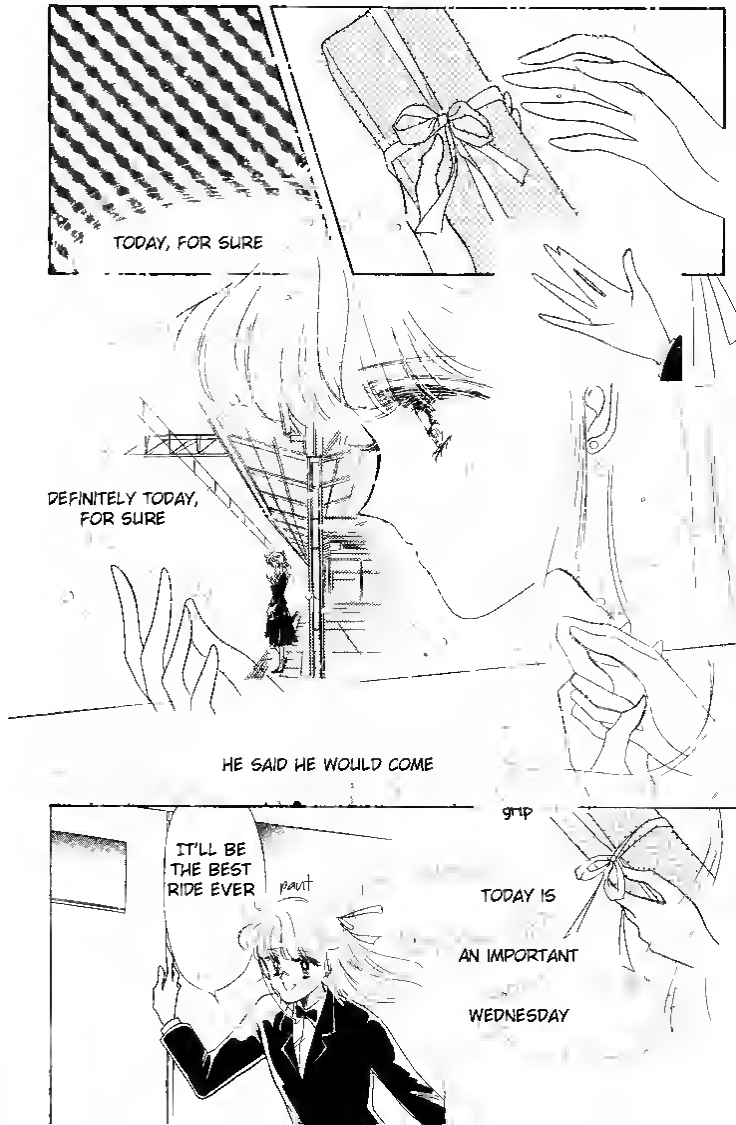


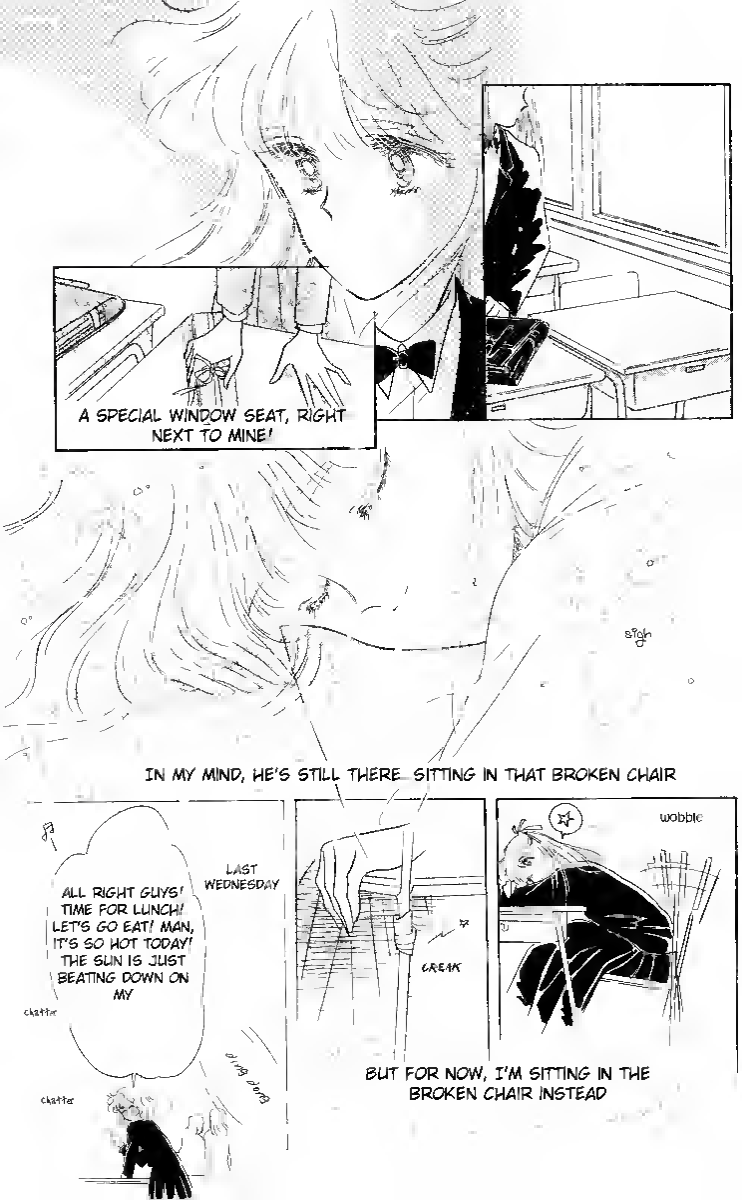
★★ the end ★★

ROCKY IS MY IDEAL TYPE. HE CAN BE A JOKER, BUT DEEP INSIDE HE'S RETICENT AND SWEET. (I ACTUALLY LIKE GUYS WHO TEASE!)
WHEN I READ THIS MANGA, IT REMINDS ME OF MIDDLE SCHOOL. AND OF MY BEST FRIEND IN HIGH SCHOOL, TOMOMI. ACTUALLY, I WAS TALKING TO HER ABOUT THE MANGA ON THE PHONE. "I THINK IT'S REALLY GREAT!" SHE SAID, AFTER I HAD SENT HER A COPY. AND THIS WAS ON A PAYPHONE TOO. "I'M GOING TO SEND YOU A LETTER ABOUT IT."
LATER THAT DAY, I GOT A PACKAGE FROM HER...AND INSIDE WAS A SMALL DRUM AND A HAMMER. ON THE CARD INSIDE OF THE PACKAGE, SHE WROTE, "WHEN I READ THIS MANGA, I KEPT HITTING MYSELF ON THE HEAD WITH THIS HAMMER FROM ALL THE SHOCK."
...I DIDN'T REALIZE MY COMICS HAD THAT MUCH IMPACT.
BUT ACTUALLY, I DO PUT A LOT OF EFFORT INTO THEM.
EVEN THOUGH THE TWO OF US TALKED A LOT ABOUT THIS, I DON'T THINK I'LL HAVE TIME TO WRITE AN EPILOGUE ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS WITH THE COUPLE IN THE STORY. SOB SOB.




Sorry
Wednesday


TODAY, FOR SURE
DEFINITELY TODAY, FOR SURE
HE SAID HE WOULD COME
IT'LL BE THE BEST RIDE EVER
pant
grip
TODAY IS
AN IMPORTANT
WEDNESDAY


A SPECIAL WINDOW SEAT, RIGHT NEXT TO MINE!
sigh
IN MY MIND, HE'S STILL THERE. SITTING IN THAT BROKEN CHAIR
LAST WEDNESDAY
ALL RIGHT GUYS! TIME FOR LUNCH! LET'S GO EAT! MAN, IT'S SO HOT TODAY! THE SUN IS JUST BEATING DOWN ON MY
chatter
chatter
CREAK
wobble
BUT FOR NOW, I'M SITTING IN THE BROKEN CHAIR INSTEAD

H-HEY WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN THAT SEAT?!
click clack
YIKES!
badum
WHAT?! WELL DAMN, WHERE AM I GOING TO SIT NOW?
YOU DON'T HAVE A TICKET FOR THIS SEAT
I WAS JUST BORROWING YOUR SEAT FOR THE DAY
OH, I THOUGT THAT YOU WEREN'T GOING TO BE HERE TODAY SO
HUH?!
CLATTER

HEY GUYS! IT'S LIKE MUKAIYAMA IS HIS WIFE SAVING HIS SEAT AND ALL!
PHEW. OH IT'S YAMAUCHI HE'S SO COOL!
AHA
blush
HE APOLOGIZED TO ME, AND AFTERWARDS I FELL ASLEEP ON MY TRAIN RIDE HOME
Y-YOU!
YOU SHOULDN'T SIT IN THAT CHAIR! I THINK I BROKE IT. SO YOU SHOULD SIT ELSEWHERE
HAHA ALL RIGHT. ALL RIGHT I'LL FIND ANOTHER CHAIR BUT YOU SHOULDN'T SIT IN THIS BROKEN CHAIR EITHER. OKAY?
CLATTER
THAT WEDNESDAY

bang
CRASH
THUNK
CLUNK
OW
hide
HEY MUKAIYAMA
W-WHO IS THAT? IS THAT THE GUY WHOSE CHAIR I BROKE?
shove
shove
slam
WAS HE READING MY LIPS JUST NOW? THAT WAS WEIRD
IT'S MY CHAIR
I GUESS I'LL MOVE SEATS THEN
OH I WAS JUST BORROWING IT FOR A MOMENT
YOU'RE IN MY SEAT. (THIS SEEMS FAMILIAR)

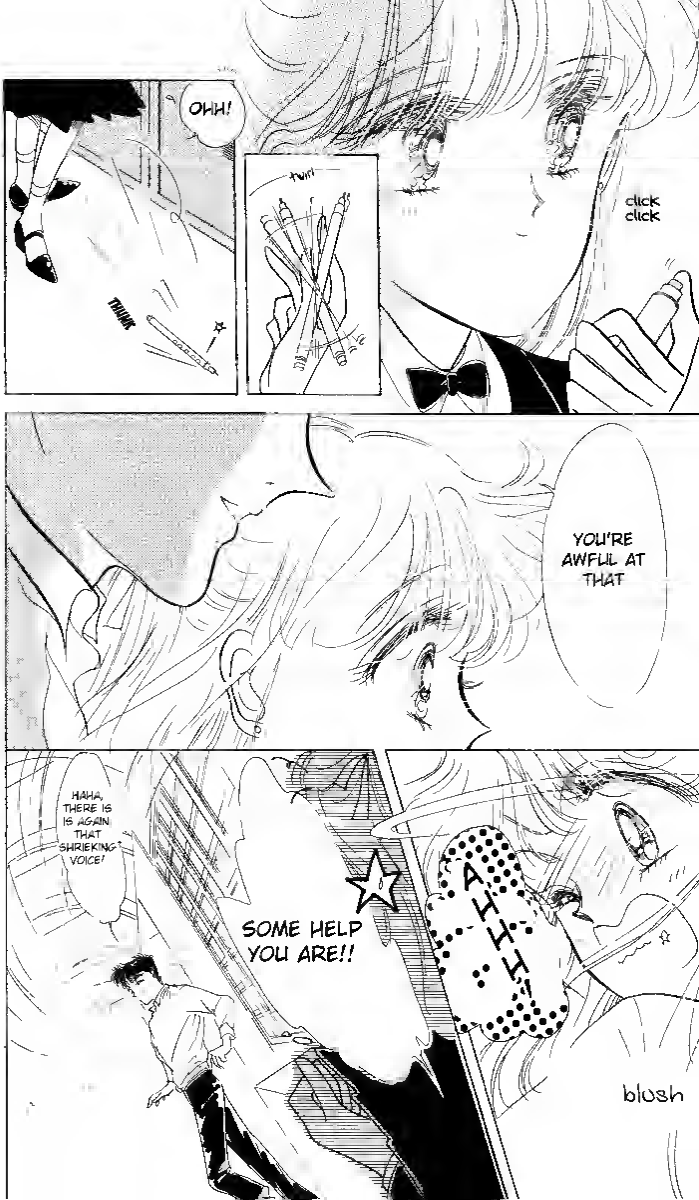
AND THANK YOU, FOR GIVING ME SO MUCH GUIDANCE IN CLASSICAL LITERATURE CLASS! ♡
YOU'RE SWEET WE HAVE CLASSICAL LITERATURE AGAIN TODAY, DON'T WE? ☆
HEY, YAMAUCHI! HAPPY BIRTHDAY! ♡
WHY IS HE WHISTLING LIKE THAT?
WOW, I GUESS TODAY MUST BE HIS BIRTHDAY
DON'T SIT HERE
UH HUH
OF COURSE YOU BROUGHT ME A PRESENT, RIGHT MUKAIYAMA? JUST LIKE A PROPER WIFE WOULD?
badum
OH! I KNOW

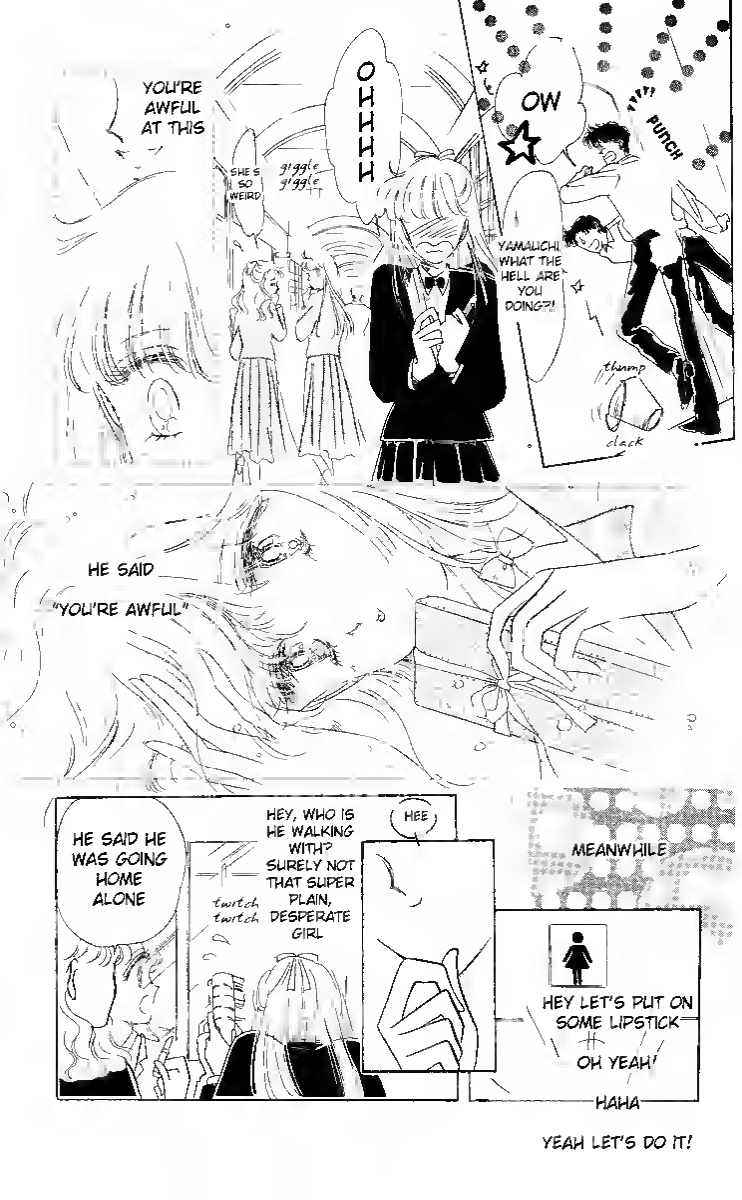
THINK OF IT AS AN APOLOGY FOR BREAKING MY SEAT
TODAY, YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE MY ENGLISH NOTES FOR ME
scribble scribble
ALL RIGHT TODAY WE'RE CONTINUES WITH LESSON 10 FROM LAST WEEK
Lesson
THAT GUY'S HAND TOUCHING MINE
GAVE ME SUCH A SHOCK
SOMEHOW IT FEELS LIKE
WE'VE DONE THIS BEFORE, NOT TOO LONG AGO
HEH
MAYBE I'LL PLAY A LITTLE PRANK ON HIM
scribble scribble
scribble scribble

AND IT WAS THEN THAT I TOTALLY, COMPLETELY FELL FOR HIM
N-NO WAY! THERE'S NO WAY HE COULD MAKE A PENCIL SPIN LIKE THAT NATURALLY!
twirl
badum
OH NO
badum
badum
EVEN THOUGH HE'S A BULLY
THERE'S SOMETHING GENTLE IN HIS FACE
AND SOMETHING SO LOVING ABOUT HIS WHISTLE
badum

WHAT?!
HEY, DO YOU MIND BUYING ONE FOR ME TOO? AREN'T YOU LUCKY, BUYING MY BREAD FOR ME AND TAKING MY NOTES!
HEY HURRY UP, OR THERE WON'T BE ANY BREAD LEFT IN THE CAFETERIA FOR US!
ding
dong
WAIT UP! I JUST HAVE TO GRAB MY WALLET!!
YOU HAVE TO BE KIDDING! I ONLY BROUGHT ENOUGH MONEY TO COVER MYSELF...
H-HEY, I DIDN'T SAY I WAS GOING TO DO THAT!
OH, SO THEN WHAT YOU'RE TELLING ME IS...
W-WHY IS HE DOING THIS TO ME?
I MEAN IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, YOU SHOULD BE BUYING ME TWO OR THREE PIECES OF BREAD!
IT'S TOTALLY OKAY TO GO AROUND BREAKING PEOPLE'S CHAIRS AND NOT REPAY THEM FOR THE HASSLE
WE DEFINITELY HAVE SOME CHEMISTRY
HEH
HEY WIFEY! HELP HIM OUT! YOU OWE HIM ONE!

HEY, HURRY UP!
JUST GO AND BUY WHATEVER
OW! WHAT A HIGH PITCHED VOICE
JUST SHUT UP AND GO AWAY!
LIKE A GOOD LITTLE WIFEY
GO AND BUY IT
I'M NOT ONE YET
AHAHAH! HEY! PWT
shine
HEY, AREN'T YOU GOING TO THE CAFETERIA FOR LUNCH?
OH, UH, I ALREADY ATE LUNCH TODAY, SO I DON'T NEED TO GO... (SORRY!)

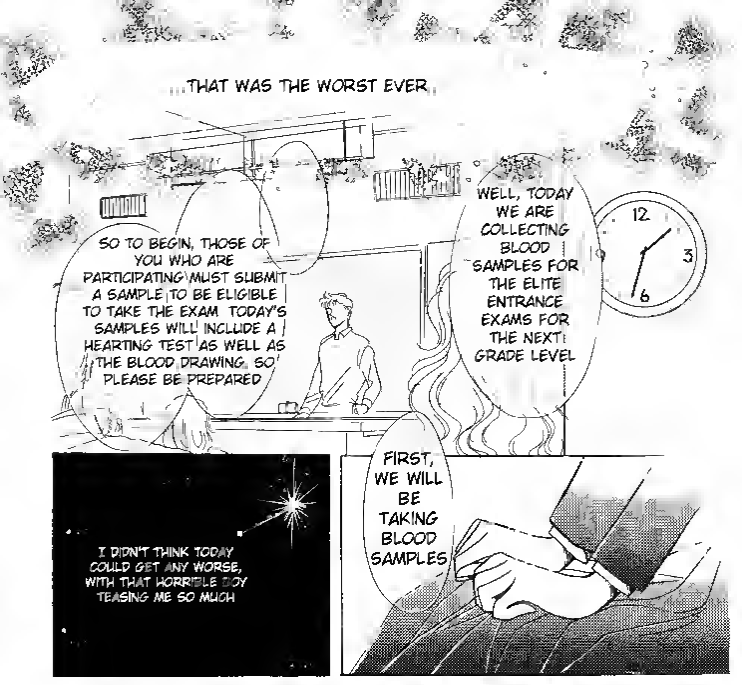

OHH!
THUNK
click
click
YOU'RE AWFUL AT THAT
HAHA, THERE IS IS AGAIN THAT SHRIEKING VOICE!
SOME HELP YOU ARE!!
AHHH!
blush


YOU'RE AWFUL AT THIS
SHE'S SO WEIRD
giggle giggle
OHHH!
OW
PUITCH
YAMAUCHI WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?!
thump
clack
HE SAID "YOU'RE AWFUL"
HE SAID HE WAS GOING HOME ALONE
twitch twitch
HEY, WHO IS HE WALKING WITH? SURELY NOT THAT SUPER PLAIN, DESPERATE GIRL
HEE
MEANWHILE
HEY LET'S PUT ON SOME LIPSTICK
OH YEAH!
HAHA
YEAH LET'S DO IT!

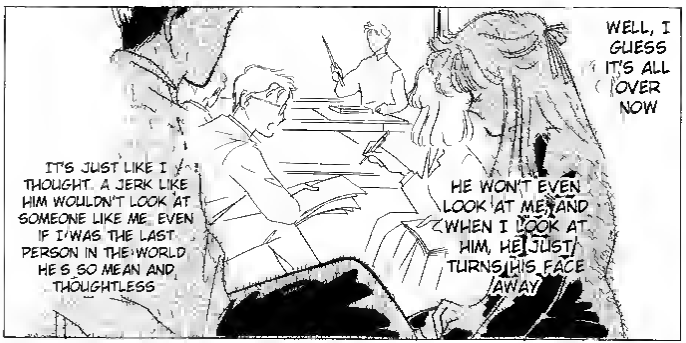
AT LEAST THIS TIME THEY AREN'T TEASING ME THEY'RE JUST TALKING ABOUT THE BOYS
THEY'RE GOING TO HAVE THEIR FINGERS PRICKED?! NO WAY!
YOU MEAN, THEY'RE ALLOWING THEMSELVES TO PRICK THEIR FINGERS FOR BLOOD?! THERE'S NO WAY SOMEONE COULD CONVINCE ME TO DO THAT, EVEN IF I GOT TO WALK IN THE WOODS WITH SOMEONE AS POPULAR AS HAYASHI (I DEFINITELY WOULDN'T GO!)
YEAH
DID YOU HEAR? THEY BOTH HAVE TO GO TO GIVE BLOOD SAMPLES IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THAT ENTRANCE EXAM AT THE NEW EXCLUSIVE ACADEMY. ♡ ISN'T SHE LUCKY? GETTING TO WALK WITH YAMAUCHI LIKE THAT
I'M GIVING HIM A PRESENT
HEY, ISN'T TODAY YAMAUCHI'S BIRTHDAY? ARE YOU GUYS GOING OUT TO CELEBRATE? NO. WE AREN'T. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING PLANNED?
OH, AND WHY NOT?
Y-Y-YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS! YOU CAN'T DO THAT!
I THINK I'D JUST GIVE ABOUT ANYTHING TO DO WHATEVER YAMAUCHI WANTED. I WAS EVEN THINKING OF GETTING CLOSE ENOUGH TO HIM TONIGHT TO GIVE HIM MY SPECIAL "SOMETHING". IF YOU CATCH MY DRIFT.
BUT NO MATTER WHAT, I WON'T GIVE IN TO YAMAUCHI! I WON'T START HAVING FEELINGS FOR HIM!
HE'S A GOOD-LOOKING THOUGHTFUL SWEET AND MYSTERIOUS YOUNG GUY EVEN THOUGH HE TEASES ME A LOT
YAMAUCHI IS SO ORGANIZED AND PERFECT.
WHY WOULD YOU REALLY BELIEVE THAT?
DON'T YOU KNOW THAT I'M ONLY TEASING?!

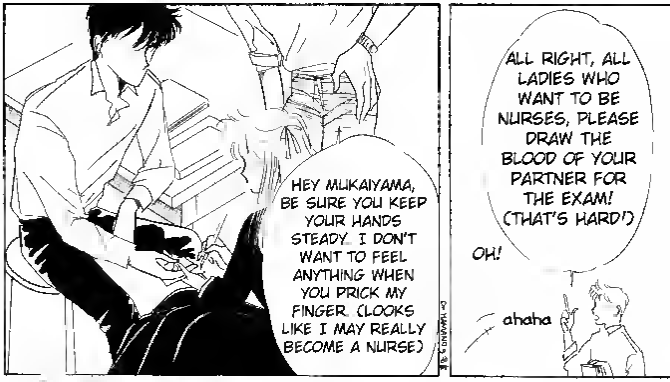
WHAT?!
HEY! HOW COME NO ONE IS SYAING THAT I'M SUPER-THOUGHTFUL AND KIND? THAT'S TOTALLY LAME!
jump
HUH
OH GOD... YOU CAN HEAR THAT GIRL'S SHRILL VOICE EVEN THROUGH THE BATHROOM WALLS
YOUNG GIRLS SHOULDN'T SOUND LIKE THAT
HEY YAMAUCHI! YOU SHOULD HURRY UP AND MAKE HER YOUR WIFE! SHE ALREADY SOUNDS LIKE ONE! HAHA!
HEY DON'T SAY THAT
WE JUST MET...
JUST STOP IT! WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO MAKE ME FEEL THIS WAY? I'M NOT USUALLY LIKE THIS!
WELL.
IT'S BECAUSE YOU LOOK LIKE A DRAB OLD HOUSEWIFE!

YOU'RE A WEAK, SELFISH PERSON! I HATE YOU!
turn
HEY, DON'T SAY SOMETHING SO STUPID IN SUCH A LOUD VOICE!
NO WAY


...THAT WAS THE WORST EVER
SO TO BEGIN, THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE PARTICIPATING MUST SUBMIT A SAMPLE TO BE ELIGIBLE TO TAKE THE EXAM. TODAY'S SAMPLES WILL INCLUDE A HEARTING TEST AS WELL AS THE BLOOD DRAWING, SO PLEASE BE PREPARED
WELL, TODAY WE ARE COLLECTING BLOOD SAMPLES FOR THE ELITE ENTRANCE EXAMS FOR THE NEXT GRADE LEVEL
I DIDN'T THINK TODAY COULD GET ANY WORSE, WITH THAT HORRIBLE BOY TEASING ME SO MUCH
FIRST, WE WILL BE TAKING BLOOD SAMPLES

MAN, I JUST DON'T WANT TO BE HERE ANYMORE TODAY


WELL, I GUESS IT'S ALL OVER NOW
IT'S JUST LIKE I THOUGHT. A JERK LIKE HIM WOULDN'T LOOK AT SOMEONE LIKE ME. EVEN IF I WAS THE LAST PERSON IN THE WORLD HE'S SO MEAN AND THOUGHTLESS
HE WON'T EVEN LOOK AT ME, AND WHEN I LOOK AT HIM, HE JUST TURNS HIS FACE AWAY

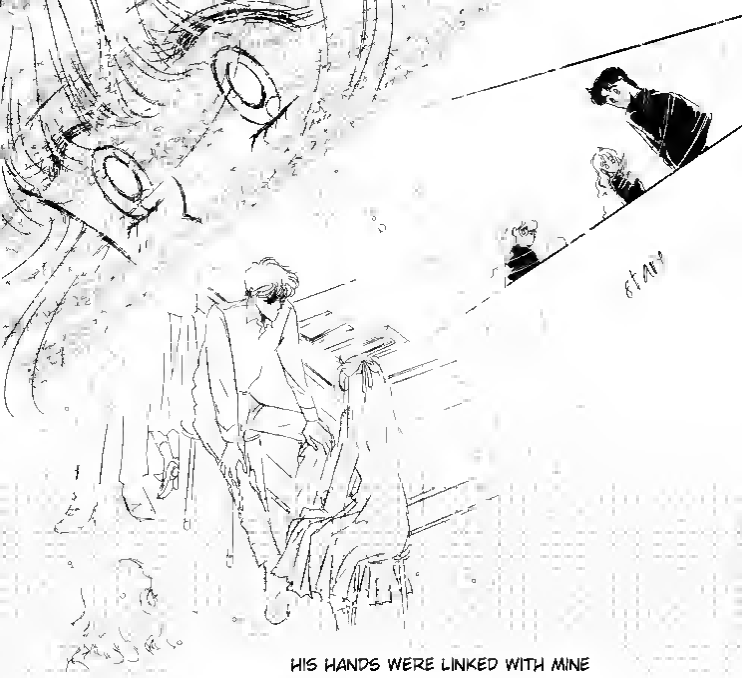

HEY MUKAIYAMA, BE SURE YOU KEEP YOUR HANDS STEADY. I DON'T WANT TO FEEL ANYTHING WHEN YOU PRICK MY FINGER. (LOOKS LIKE I MAY REALLY BECOME A NURSE)
ALL RIGHT, ALL LADIES WHO WANT TO BE NURSES, PLEASE DRAW THE BLOOD OF YOUR PARTNER FOR THE EXAM! (THAT'S HARD!)
OH!
ahaha

SOMEHOW, HIS HAND IS SO WARM AND FAMILIAR

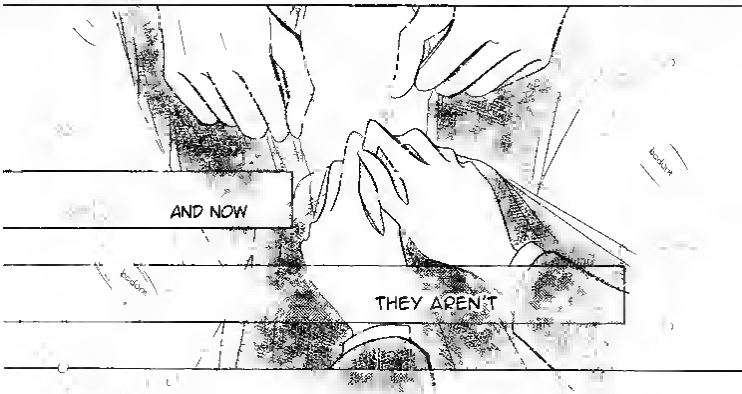
MY HAND IS SHAKING

OH!
pinch
grip
OW
OH NO, WHAT SHOULD I DO? I DON'T HAVE ANY TISSUES OR HANDKERCHIEFS WITH ME.
OH NO, THE GAUZE!
flutter
grab
HE'S BLEEDING
WHAT SHOULD I DO
lick

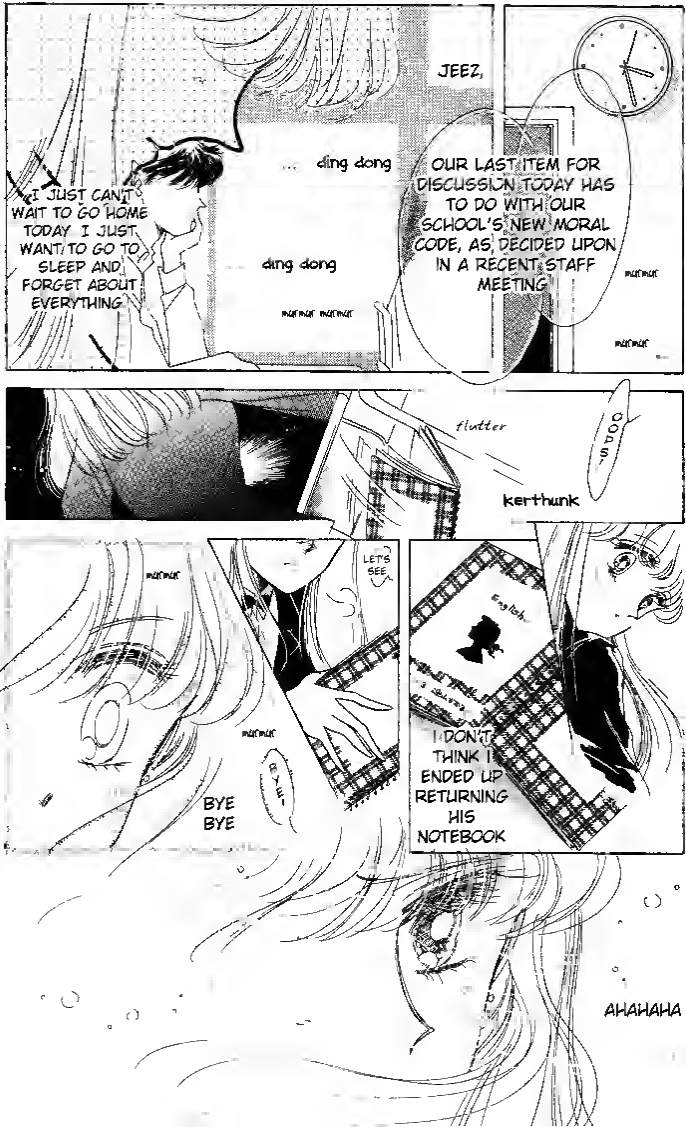
yikes!
WAY TO GO YAMAGUCHI!
ACK
YEAH GO MUKAIYAMA!
twish
twish
HEY SHUT UP
HE'S USUALLY SO QUIET AND RESERVED
YEAH BABY!
OH, WHAT HAVE I DONE?!
YOU
SHE'S SO SWEET KISSING HIM "GOODBYE" JUST LIKE A LOVING WIFE!
YAMAGUCHI IS SUCH A WILD GUY!
I WANT TO DIE
YOU'RE SUCH A KLUTZ!



HIS HANDS WERE LINKED WITH MINE



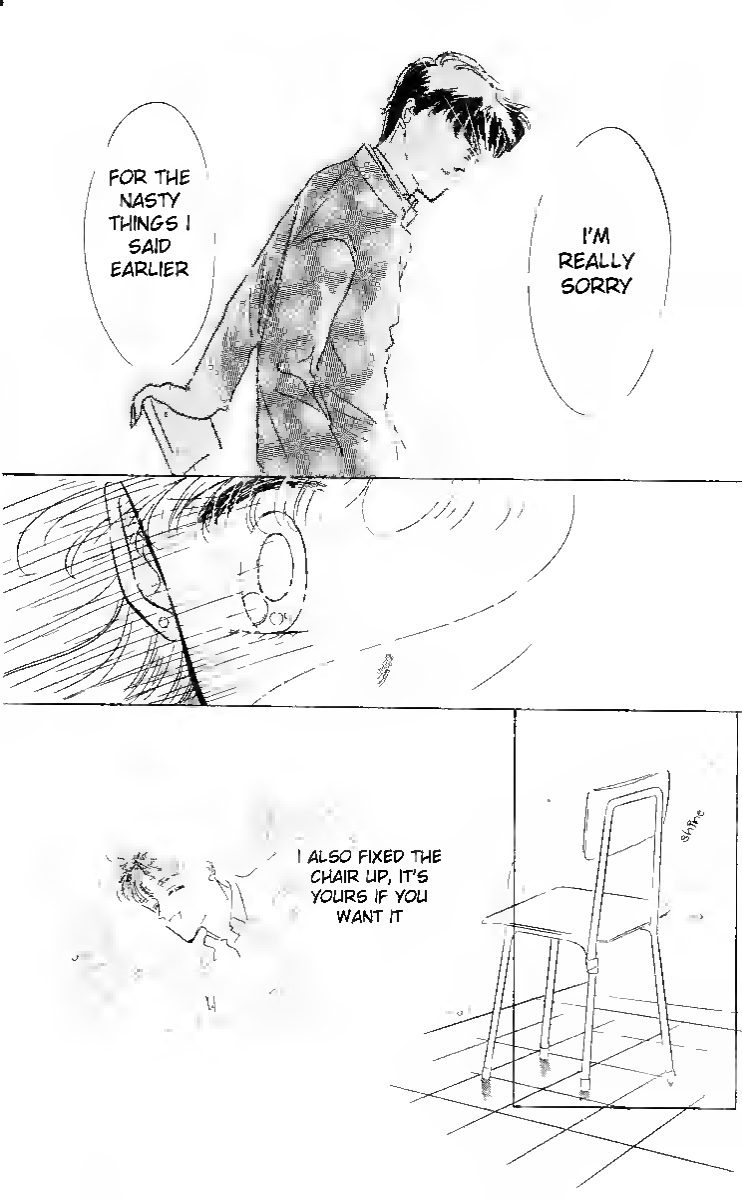
AFTER A WHILE


I JUST CAN'T WAIT TO GO HOME TODAY. I JUST WANT TO GO TO SLEEP AND FORGET ABOUT EVERYTHING.
... ding dong
ding dong
JEEZ,
OUR LAST ITEM FOR DISCUSSION TODAY HAS TO DO WITH OUR SCHOOL'S NEW MORAL CODE, AS DECIDED UPON IN A RECENT STAFF MEETING.
flutter
GODS!
kerthunk
LET'S SEE...
English
I DON'T THINK I ENDED UP RETURNING HIS NOTEBOOK.
BYE!
BYE BYE
AHAHAHA

WAH
AHAHA
BYE BYE
THANKS FOR THE NOTES
twirl twirl
OW
CLATTER
tick

scribble
scribble
scribble
scribble
scribble
YOU MUST TAKE ME FOR A FOOL
HEY, IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANY CHORES OR ANYTHING AFTER THIS, DO YOU WANNA GO DO SOMETHING?
glance
UGH, THIS GUY
EVEN IF I AGREED TO GO OUT WITH HIM SOMEWHERE, HE'LL JUST TURN IT INTO A JOKE ON ME
CRASH
NOT AT ALL
UH HUH

ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED IN NAKAYOSHI, DECEMBER 1988


FOR THE NASTY THINGS I SAID EARLIER
I'M REALLY SORRY
I ALSO FIXED THE CHAIR UP, IT'S YOURS IF YOU WANT IT

I'M REALLY SORRY
I HATE YOU!
IT'S REALLY BEEN
A REALLY SPECIAL KIND OF WEDNESDAY

IT'LL BE DIFFERENT FROM NOW ON
EVERY WEDNESDAY IS GOING TO BE DIFFERENT FROM THIS DAY FORWARD
THIS PRESENT GOT ALL WRINKLED SOMEHOW
YAMAUCHI
YAMAUCHI

CRASH
OWW
UGH, IT'S POURING OUTSIDE AND I FORGOT TO BRING MY UMBRELLA
puddle
DID... DID YOU FORGET SOMETHING?

HEY
YOU'RE AT MY LOCKER
GET OUT OF THE WAY! I NEED TO GET INTO MY LOCKER
OH LIM
GET OUT OF THE WAY!
YOU WANT SOMETHING FROM IT?
COME ON, JUST LET ME IN ALREADY

DID YOU GIVE ME A BIRTHDAY PRESENT?
YAMAUCHI
I WONDER
IF I CAN EVER REALLY BECOME
A STRAIGHT-FORWARD GIRL

I...
UMM...
grip
slide
I HAD A REALLY AMAZING
WEDNESDAY WITH YOU
WHAT ABOUT YOU, MUKAIYAMA?
YES, I HAD A GREAT WEDNESDAY TOO

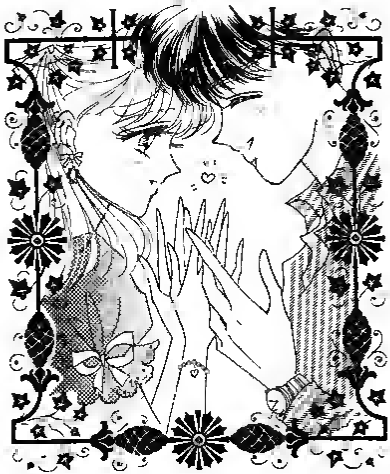
I'M SORRY
I REALLY DO LIKE YOU
AND SO IT REALLY WAS
A HAPPY BIRTHDAY

★★ the end ★★

SORRY, WEDNESDAY

THE TITLE OF THIS STORY WAS SPECIAL TO ME, BECAUSE WHEN I WAS A FRESHMAN IN HIGH SCHOOL, I USED TO KNOW A GUY LIKE YAMAUCHI. HE WAS A GREAT CLASSMATE AND IN THE BRASS BAND WITH ME. ALWAYS WHISTLING SIMON AND GARFUNKEL. HE WAS UNFORGETTABLE. WHEN I BECAME A SOPHOMORE, THEY SEPARATED OUR CLASSES BY GENDER SO I DIDN'T GET TO SEE HIM MUCH ANYMORE. WHEN I DID SEE HIM, I USED TO ACT LIKE THE GIRL FROM THIS MANGA AROUND HIM. EMBARASSING.

UP UNTIL HE GRADUATED FROM COLLEGE, HE USED TO COME BACK FROM SCHOOL FOR VACATIONS AND DRAW LITTLE MANGA SHORTS FOR EVERYONE. OF COURSE, THAT WAS LONG BEFORE I STARTED TO DRAW MANGA OF MY OWN DURING VACATION TIME. WHEN YAMAUCHI WAS IN COLLEGE, HE TUTORED ME IN CLASSICAL LITERATURE FOR ALMOST TWO YEARS. I JUST KEPT THINKING, "MAN, THAT'S SO AWFUL!" AND I USED TO STUDY SO HARD TOO! WELL, I GUESS YOU CAN'T BE THE BEST AT EVERYTHING. HE LATER BECAME A PROFESSOR OF ANCIENT TEXTS AND CLASSICAL LITERATURE, AND I USED TO TEASE HIM FOR BEING A REGULAR DANDY. OF COURSE. WHEN I SAW HIM YEARS LATER, I STARTED GOING ON WALKS WITH HIM AND NOTICED THAT HE WASN'T THE UPTIGHT PROFESSOR AT ALL (AFTER ALL, THIS GUY WAS AN EXPERT ON WORLD LITERATURE. HE WAS TOO EDUCATED TO BE A JERK!) WE STARTED TO REALLY ENJOY EACH OTHER'S COMPANY, BUT SUDDENLY HAD TO PART WAYS AGAIN. I WONDER IF I'LL SEE HIM AROUND A COLLEGE CAMPUS AT SOME POINT AGAIN IN THE FUTURE?



I HAPPENED TO BUMP INTO HIM SHORTLY AFTER THIS PIECE WAS PUBLISHED, AND MAN, I WAS EMBARRASSED. THE ONLY THING I COULD SAY TO HIM ABOUT THE WHOLE THING WAS "I'M SORRY!"

BUT, NOW THAT SO MANY YEARS HAVE PASSED AND ALL I'M REALLY KNOWN FOR NOWADAYS IS "SAILOR MOON", I HAVEN'T HEARD A WORD ABOUT ANY OF MY OTHER WORKS FROM ANYONE, SO MAYBE NOW I'M IN THE CLEAR WITH THIS GUY, HAHA. AND HEY, IF YOU'RE READING THIS AND YOU'RE STILL ANGRY WITH ME, I'M SORRY! STILL SO SORRY! I KNOW WHAT I DID, MAKING MY SCHOOL GIRL FEELINGS FOR YOU PUBLIC, WAS TOTALLY NOT AMUSING, BUT I COULDN'T HELP MYSELF. I'M A SELFISH GIRL, AND THE MANGA READERS JUST FOUND MY CRAZINESS INTERESTING.

ANYWAY, WHEN IT COMES TO BEING AN AUTHOR (OH, WHAT A FUNNY WORD TO CALL SOMEONE WHO WRITES MANGA!), YOU REALLY DO END UP PUTTING A VERY PERSONAL PIECE OF YOURSELF IN ALL OF YOUR WORKS. I THINK THIS LITTLE SHORT STORY OF MINE IS A PRIME EXAMPLE OF THAT. IN PARTICULAR, I TEND TO PUT A LOT OF MYSELF INTO MY WORK, SO IT'S VERY PERSONAL, NOT ONLY FOR MYSELF, BUT ALSO FOR ALL OF THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE TOUCHED AND INSPIRED ME OVER THE YEARS. I DON'T MEAN TO START ANY FIGHTS WITH MY WORK THOUGH (THAT WAS NEVER MY INTENTION!) BUT THE THING IS, IF I STOPPED PUTTING MYSELF INTO MY WORK, I THINK THE QUALITY OF WHAT I PRODUCE WOULD REALLY SUFFER.

AND THERE YOU HAVE IT. THE EXCUSES OF A TIRED, OVERWORKED MANGA CREATOR. WELL, AT LEAST MAYBE I'VE BEEN ABLE TO SHARE A PART OF MYSELF WITH ALL OF YOU OUT THERE READING AT HOME. IT'S SURREAL TO ME TO THINK ABOUT IT, AND IT KIND OF MAKES ME FEEL GUILTY FOR BEING A BIG OF AN EXHIBITIONIST. BUT THAT'S MY JOB, EVEN THOUGH YOU WOULDN'T THINK OF THAT AS BEING AN ASPECT RIGHT AWAY. I GUESS IT'S JUST A NATURAL CONSEQUENCE OF MY LINE OF WORK. I'M SURE EVENTUALLY I'LL UNDERSTAND HOW EVERYTHING I DO FITS TOGETHER SOMEDAY, HAHA.

GOSH! SORRY FOR WRITING THIS ON SUCH AN OLD CARD! THIS IS FROM 1988!

MOMOKO an pistol grip Took five station Tokyo or OSAKA J apanease gruff flour for bread per capu a year kiken na futari KASABURANKA in

ady produced by CHANEL are as not as very go

JUST THE OTHER DAY. A NEW TEAM MATE WAS ADDED TO MY ASSISTANT'S GROUP, AND IT WAS EASY TO SEE WHY SHE WAS CHOSEN. SHE WAS HILARIOUS! AND SHE REALLY UNDERSTOOD MY STYLE. BUT THE TRUTH IS, NOW THAT I'M BEGINNING TO INTERNALIZE HER ADDITION, I KEEP LOOKING AT MYSELF AND NOTICING THAT MAYBE I CAN'T KEEP UP BEING AN ARTIST AND A WRITER FOREVER

AND THEN I THOUGHT, WELL, I CAN ALWAYS STAY YOUNG WITHIN THE WORLD I CREATE IN MY COMICS! AND I WAS PRETTY SATISFIED WITH MYSELF FOR INVENTING SUCH A WILD EXCUSE.

BUT WOULDN'T THAT BE GREAT? IF I COULD REALLY JUST LIVE IN THE WORLDS I CREATED, I'D BE SO HAPPY. FOR ONE THING, I'D ALWAYS BE YOUNG. I'D LIVE ON THE CUTTING EDGE AND LIFE WOULD NEVER GET BORING. AND NAKAYOSHI WOULD SELL EVERYTHING I WROTE FOREVER AND EVER.

BUT ANYWAY, ENOUGH OF MY RAMBLING. THANK YOU FOR READING MY WORK EVEN AFTER ALL THESE YEARS. THE CONTENT OF WHAT I WORK ON NOW MAY HAVE CHANGED, BUT I'M STILL THE SAME PERSON INSIDE. DESPITE MY FAME (WELL... MAYBE...) ANYWAYS - LATER!

1994 11 23 NAOKO TAKEUCHI

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